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**Search Terms:** "syrian refugees" or "syrian refugee crisis"

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| news | Timeline: 01 Jan, 2014 to 31 Dec, 2017 Source Location: Europe Source Location: United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Source Type: Newspapers Source Name: The Independent (United Kingdom) |

1. [**Young people less likely to view refugees as major threat, survey finds Majority of Americans aged over 65view refugees coming into the US as amajor threat, compared withless than a thirdof people younger than 35, according to findings**](#Bookmark_1)

2. [**Bana al-Abed: Seven-year-old Aleppan records video for Donald Trump asking him to remember Syrian refugees "Mr Trump, have you ever had no food and water for 24 hours? Just think of the refugees and the children of Syria ," girl b...**](file:///C:\Users\Emma\Downloads\Mr#Bookmark_2)

3. [**Syrian refugees send message to Theresa May: 'We need our children, we miss them so much' Nick Clegg is among the supporters ofAmal and Muhammed Alwadi's campaign**](#Bookmark_3)

4. [**Indyplus news: Britain condemned for turning its back on Syria 's refugees**](#Bookmark_4)

5. [**How Donald Trump Jr's 'Skittles' comment has a history as a racist dogwhistle that goes back to the Nazis It started with the killing of an innocent black teenager in 2014**](#Bookmark_5)

6. [**How Donald Trump Jr's 'Skittles' comment has a history as a racist dogwhistle that goes back to the Nazis It started with poisoned mushrooms, changing over time into sweets before finding its final form after the deathof an innocent black teenager in 2012**](#Bookmark_6)

7. [**Video sees Greek coastguard accused of deliberately trying to sink refugee boats Shocking footage appears to show a Greek crewman attempting to pierce the side of an inflatable dinghy carrying 60 people**](#Bookmark_7)

8. [**Man rewrites refugee crisis to highlight hypocrisy of right-wing America 'I would rather die, with hope in my heart, in a country that opens its arms to those in need, than live, ashamed, in one which turns its back'**](#Bookmark_8)

9. [**Senior Tory ministers are 'avoiding live interviews to rely on statements and scripts' Some major current affairs programmes and radio stations have been unable to interview a government minister since May**](#Bookmark_9)

10. [**Syrian refugee children found working in Next and H&M factories Next and H&M says refugees in Turkey were working in their supply-chain factories**](#Bookmark_10)

11. [**Refugee crisis scale massively underestimated by UK public, report finds Nearly five million Syrians have been displaced by the civil war, yet Britons believe the figure to be closer to 300,000**](#Bookmark_11)

12. [**Syrian children found working for UK clothing suppliers including Next and H&M Next and H&M says refugees in Turkey were working in their supply-chain factories**](#Bookmark_12)

13. [**Syrian refugee children found working in Next and H&M factories Next and H&M says refugees in Turkey were working in their supply-chain factories**](#Bookmark_13)

14. [**Aylan Kurdi's aunt still fighting for family to move to Canada as she blames herself for deaths 'If I didn't send him the smugglers' money, those people would still be alive'**](#Bookmark_14)

15. [**We're not migrants. We're citizens of the EU Sketch**](#Bookmark_15)

16. [**Exclusive: A call of duty - 25 leading charities urge PM to open Britain 's door to its share of Syria 's most vulnerable refugees As the plight of its displaced civilians grows more desperate still, the organisations call on Davi...**](#Bookmark_16)

17. [**A call of duty As the plight of Syria 's displaced civilians grows more desperate still, 25 leading charities urge David Cameron to open Britain's door to its share of the most vulnerable refugees EXCLUSIVE 'It is immoral for us t...**](#Bookmark_17)

18. [**Exclusive: A call of duty - 25 leading charities urge PM to open Britain 's door to 30,000 of Syria 's most vulnerable refugees As the plight of its displaced civilians grows more desperate still, the organisations call on David C...**](#Bookmark_18)

19. [**Refugee crisis: Three people stabbed in riots amid 'chaotic' and unsanitary conditions in Greek camps 'Anxiety and frustration is widespread,'the UNHCR said**](#Bookmark_19)

20. [**Amal Clooney and George Clooney meet with refugees to mark fifth anniversary of Syrian crisis The human rights lawyer said her family were forced to flee war in Lebanon and expressed hope they one day may be able to return to a free Syria**](#Bookmark_20)

21. [**World news in brief**](#Bookmark_21)

22. [**Amal Clooney and George Clooney meet with refugees to mark fifth anniversary of Syrian crisis The human rights lawyer said her father has since returned to Lebanon and expressed hope they one day may be able to return to a free Syria**](#Bookmark_22)

23. [**Donald Trump : I will look Syrian kids in the face and say 'go home' The Republican said he has a 'bigger heart' than anyone else in theaudience over resettlement of refugee children**](#Bookmark_23)

24. [**More than 1,000 Rabbis call on United States to welcome refugees 'As Rabbis, we take seriously the biblical mandate to welcome the stranger'**](#Bookmark_24)

25. [**Refugee electrocuted touching railway cables as protests break out on Greek - Macedonian border The man is the second refugee to be electrocuted in recent days**](#Bookmark_25)

26. [**More than 250 refugees in 'mortal danger' after being forcibly returned to war-torn Syria from Lebanon Amnesty International has slammed Lebanese authorities for 'stooping to a new low' by placing the refugees in danger**](#Bookmark_26)

27. [**One in five Syrians is a refugee, UN confirms It is officially the largest movement of people in any crisis for 25 years**](#Bookmark_27)

28. [**Amal Clooney calls on UK to take more Syrian refugees: 'There has been one Yazidi family that gained asylum in UK' The human rights lawyer says she would be 'delighted' to work on a prosecution of the Syrian president Bashar Assad...**](#Bookmark_28)

29. [**Amal Clooney calls on UK to take more Syrian refugees: 'There has been one Yazidi family that gained asylum in UK' The human rights lawyer says she would be 'delighted' to work on a prosecution of the Syrian president Bashar Assad...**](#Bookmark_29)

30. [**David Cameron is finally changing his tune on providing a safe haven for victims of the war in Syria . What took him so long?**](#Bookmark_30)

31. [**100 people feared dead in Mediterranean taking toll for 2016 to 5,000 - the highest ever Two dinghies carrying hundreds of refugees sink**](#Bookmark_31)

32. [**100 people feared dead in Mediterranean taking toll for 2016 to 5,000 - the highest ever Two dinghys carrying hundreds of refugees sink**](#Bookmark_32)

33. [**Refugee who was master tailor in Syria comes to rescue of Canadian bride who suffered last minute dress malfunction It turned out the bride's neighbour was hosting a Syrian refugee family, one of whom had been a tailor for 28 years**](#Bookmark_33)

34. [**Refugee crisis: Europe looks to charm Turkey's Erdogan in bid to staunch flow across borders The move comes despite recent EU admonishments for the Turkish leader overhis authoritarianism and recent attacks on Kurdish positions**](#Bookmark_34)

35. [**Cameron calls for aid spending closer to Syrian borders on whistle-stop tour Choreographed mission to Lebanon 's refugees is aimed at British public opinion, writes OLIVER WRIGHT in Zaatari**](#Bookmark_35)

36. [**Charities call for looser asylum rules as UK receives just 1 in 30 of total EU asylum claims Britain accounts for one eighth of EU population but received just 3.5 per cent of EU's asylum claims, while Germany received 38 per cent**](#Bookmark_36)

37. [**Senior British politicians tell David Cameron : When dead children are being washed up on beaches - it's time to act 'These pictures are beyond horrific. They are the wake-up call David Cameron needs,' Liberal Democrat leader Tim ...**](#Bookmark_37)

38. [**German school children who attacked refugee classmates 'being investigated by police' 'We are unwilling to helplessly watch as a new generation of dim young nationalists grow up, just because their parents may tolerate or even encourage it'**](#Bookmark_38)

39. [**Government U-turn over Syria : 500 of most vulnerable refugees to be let into Britain Nick Clegg announces decision after campaign by The Independent**](#Bookmark_39)

40. [**What life is actually like for people living in Syria right now Kurdish fighters have taken more than 200 villages and towns from Isis in three weeks, under the cover of coalition air strikes**](#Bookmark_40)

41. [**Asylum seekers pretending to be Syrian in UK applications risking prosecution Refugees from other countries have admitted lying about their nationality in the home of being granted asylum**](#Bookmark_41)

42. [**Northern Refugee Centre set to close due to lack of funding The charity has helped refugees in Yorkshire for over three decades**](#Bookmark_42)

43. [**Canada 'to turn away single male refugees' amid fears over Paris attacks 'All these refugees are vulnerable but some are more vulnerable than others,' Quebec 's premier says**](#Bookmark_43)

44. [**Tom Peck's Sketch: David Cameron's easy ride in Hungary fails to materialise It is hard to imagine a closer union than between our PMand Hungary 's Viktor Orban - but they differ on a crucial point**](#Bookmark_44)

45. [**German school children who attacked refugee classmates 'being investigated by police' 'We are unwilling to helplessly watch as a new generation of dim young nationalists grow up, just because their parents may tolerate or even encourage it'**](#Bookmark_45)

46. [**Benjamin Netanyahu rejects calls for Israel to take in more refugees - and pledges to build 18-mile border fence instead Prime minister says Israel has 'neither demographic or geographic depth' to take refugees, instead announcing...**](#Bookmark_46)

47. [**Canada's opinion of US reaches record 35-year low after election of Donald Trump The US president's anti-immigration stance seems to be the reason**](#Bookmark_47)

48. [**Aylan Kurdi's last words were 'Daddy, please don't die' as father battled to save him The three-year-old Syrian boy was buried by his father yesterday**](#Bookmark_48)

49. [**What life is actually like for people living in Syria right now Kurdish fighters have taken more than 200 villages and towns from Isis in three weeks, under the cover of coalition air strikes**](#Bookmark_49)

50. [**Hillary Clinton opposes the Keystone XL pipeline, calls it a distraction to climate change The Democrat announced her opposition to the project during a community event in Iowa**](#Bookmark_50)

51. [**A woman 'calling for jihad' was invited on a German talk show Her appearance provoked an immediate public backlash**](#Bookmark_51)

52. [**The plight of Syria 's refugees transcends party politics. What's worrying is that Nigel Farage realised that before our Prime Minister Mr Cameron, unlike Ukip's leader, is a prisoner of strict party discipline**](#Bookmark_52)

53. [**The plight of Syria 's refugees transcends party politics. What's worrying is that Nigel Farage realised that before our Prime Minister Mr Cameron, unlike Ukip's leader, is a prisoner of strict party discipline**](#Bookmark_53)

54. [**Government hasn't taken in a single child refugee since very public pledge, reveals peer who escaped the NAis 'These children are in danger. All the evidence is that some of them are in danger of being lured into crime and prostitution,' says Lord Dubs**](#Bookmark_54)

55. [**Refugee crisis: Britain is failing to take in its fair share of unaccompanied children, House of Lords report says 'We found a clear failure among EU countries, including the UK, to shoulder their fair share of the burden'**](#Bookmark_55)

56. [**Refugee crisis: Britain is failing to take in its fair share of unaccompanied children, House of Lords report says 'We found a clear failure among EU countries, including the UK, to shoulder their fair share of the burden'**](#Bookmark_56)

57. [**Refugees and migrants arriving in Greece from Turkey down 90 per cent, says border agency The drop in numbers follows an agreement between Turkey and the European Union to send back illegal migrants arriving in Greece**](#Bookmark_57)

58. [**Refugee crisis: EU deportations to Turkey from Lesbos continue despite protests 'A dark day for the Refugee Convention, a dark day for Europe and a dark day for humanity'**](#Bookmark_58)

59. [**EU refugee deal hits setback as Cyprus objects to Turkey bid**](#Bookmark_59)

60. [**Refugee crisis: Britain is failing to take in its fair share of unaccompanied children, House of Lords report says 'We found a clear failure among EU countries, including the UK, to shoulder their fair share of the burden'**](#Bookmark_60)

61. [**Cologne sex attacks: Two men 'of an immigrant background' arrested with note translating threats to women Note allegedlycarriedtranslations of phrases including"Beautiful breasts", "I want to have sex with you"and "I'll kill you"**](file:///C:\Users\Emma\Downloads\Beautiful#Bookmark_61)

62. [**Obama says US must not turn its back on Syria refugees His comments at G20 in Turkey came after senior Republicans said the US should stop accepting refugees from Syria**](#Bookmark_62)

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65. [**The economic data tell us there's no cause for alarm about refugees It's worth remembering that skills and talent flee along with people**](#Bookmark_65)

66. [**Obama says US must not turn its back on Syria refugees His comments at G20 in Turkey came after senior Republicans said the US should stop accepting refugees from Syria**](#Bookmark_66)

67. [**#BuyPens: Syrian refugee photographed selling pens to feed children uses crowdfunding to start businesses Abdul Halim al-Attar is now employing other refugees in the three businesses he started using money raised by well-wishers around the world**](#Bookmark_67)

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69. [**The economic data tell us there's no cause for alarm about refugees It's worth remembering that skills and talent flee along with people**](#Bookmark_69)

70. [**Refugee crisis: Government to begin talks on resettlement of refugees in Britain David Cameron has pledged to accept 20,000 refugees from Syria by 2020**](#Bookmark_70)

71. [**This U.N. reporter had to ask George Clooney about Brad Pitt's divorce explains what happened**](#Bookmark_71)

72. [**This U.N. reporter had to ask George Clooney about Brad Pitt's divorce**](#Bookmark_72)

73. [**Five practical ways you can help refugees trying to find safety in Europe As the crisis affecting thousands of people worsens, here's what you can do**](#Bookmark_73)

74. [**Refugee crisis: Angela Merkel's coalition 'sent wrong message to outside world', say critics Geramny's Vice-Chancellor said nation can absorb 500,000 refugees a year**](#Bookmark_74)

75. [**Donald Trump's new 'Muslim ban' still does not include countries that have produced terrorists Executive order excludes Saudi Arabia , the United Arab Emirates and Egypt**](#Bookmark_75)

76. [**Muslim leaders to file lawsuit against Donald Trump's refugee ban The Council on American -Islamic Relations said the purpose of banning refugees was to 'ban people of the Islamic faith'**](#Bookmark_76)

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78. [**Trump executive order bars refugees from key Muslim countries entering the US**](#Bookmark_78)

79. [**Trump executive order bars refugees from key Muslim countries entering the US**](#Bookmark_79)

80. [**Flat-pack future Refugee populations have long been reliant on charitable aid agencies. Could business investment from companies such as Ikea change the norm, Rachel England asks**](#Bookmark_80)

81. [**'Isis flag' picture that claims to show refugees attacking police goes viral - and is a lie It's old, probably not an Isis flag and has nothing to do with refugees**](#Bookmark_81)

82. [**'Unite to fight against the hatred that killed Jo', says husband in moving tribute**](#Bookmark_82)

83. [**Syrian girl campaigns against child marriage from her refugee camp in Jordan 'Girls from my home have their future lost or destroyed, this is something I can't accept. I have to fight for women's rights'**](#Bookmark_83)

84. [**Jordan 's King Abdullah warns Syrian refugee 'dam will burst' if rich nations don't take fair share Oxfam has released a new analysis of how much rich countries are doing to meet their 'fair share' of the refugee crisis**](#Bookmark_84)

85. [**Republican presidential candidates sound as if they're declaring war on Muslims of every hue - and are in danger of play into jihadists' hands Out of America : Theirreaction to the Paris attacks is exactly the sort of clash of civ...**](#Bookmark_85)

86. [**Refugee crisis: Investigation launched after bodies of two men thought to be migrants found inside transit case in Staffordshire warehouse Police called to boiler manufacturers Ferroli after the bodies were discovered by workmen**](#Bookmark_86)

87. [**Scottish island Bute to welcome UK's first refugees with screening of It's a Wonderful Life The island will welcome 15 Syrian refugee families including around 50 children**](#Bookmark_87)

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89. [**Politicians across divide pay tribute to 'star' MP**](#Bookmark_89)

90. [**Refugee crisis: More than a million people entered Europe by sea in 2015 as thousands continue to arrive every day The future for asylum seekers arriving on Europe's shores looks ever less certain as countries tighten laws**](#Bookmark_90)

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93. [**Refugee crisis: Aylan's life was full of fear - in death, he is part of 'humanity washed ashore' Eventually the time came for him to cross two short miles on the Aegean Sea**](#Bookmark_93)

94. [**By failing to educate child refugees, we are creating the extremists of the future Right now, 2.8 million Syrian children and between 50 and80 per cent of the 360,000 school-aged refugee children in Lebanonare out of school - even...**](#Bookmark_94)

95. [**The one chart that shows how Britain won't help refugees who have travelled to Europe Britain is not taking part in the quota system**](#Bookmark_95)

96. [**Calais crisis: UK and France slammed by UN envoy for failing to understand the desperate plight of refugees 'The numbers in the camp are only about 3,000 and could be easily handled'**](#Bookmark_96)

97. [**Theresa May refuses to condemn Donald Trump immigration ban Prime Minister says she was 'very pleased' to meet new President in Washington**](#Bookmark_97)

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99. [**Lebanon appoints man as first ever women's affairs minister New 30-minister strong cabinet made up of 29 men heralded as marking theend of more than two years of political gridlock**](#Bookmark_99)

100. [**Syrian torture victims in UK 'not receiving enough specialist care'**](#Bookmark_100)

101. [**The joy of Canada delivered from Stephen Harper's darkness to Justin Trudeau's light Harper was an economist.Trudeau used to be a schoolteacher, and has shadesof his gadabout but humane PM fatherPierre**](#Bookmark_101)

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103. [**Lebanon appoints man as first ever women's affairs minister New 30-minister strong cabinet made up of 29 men heralded as marking theend of more than two years of political gridlock**](#Bookmark_103)

104. [**Ruby Rose warns we should be scared of Donald Trump and not laugh at him after Skittles row**](#Bookmark_104)

105. [**George Osborne hints at military strikes in Syria to stem exodus of refugees The Chancellor insists crisis must be tackled 'at source', but political consensus for action against President Assad may be hard to find**](#Bookmark_105)

106. [**Refugee crisis: UK foreign aid budget to be spent 'in the national interest' to house people in Britain , George Osborne says**](#Bookmark_106)

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111. [**Ancient and modern grief What would Greek tragedy 'The Trojan Women' mean to Syrian refugees? A lot, as Holly Williams finds out from a new documentary**](#Bookmark_111)

112. [**Jeb Bush promises to keep Guantanamo Bay open despite failing presidential campaign**](#Bookmark_112)

113. [**Aylan Kurdi's father to deliver Christmas message on TV Special report: Europe's refugee crisis Channel 4 's alternative address to be given by Syrian whose son's death triggered global outcry**](#Bookmark_113)

114. [**Settle refugee crisis or let in the hard right, EU leaders warn**](#Bookmark_114)

115. [**Attorneys General in 16 US States condemn Donald Trump's Muslim ban**](#Bookmark_115)

116. [**Katie Hopkins vows she will not be silenced over the refugee crisis Hopkins broke her silence on Monday after thousands demanded she apologise for past comments about refugees**](#Bookmark_116)

117. [**Europe must cope with refugees or its reputation is 'kaput', says Merkel**](#Bookmark_117)

118. [**Migrant crisis: Angela Merkel warns Europe its credibility on human rights is about to be 'kaput' German Chancellor insists her country is equipped for challenge, despite revelations the crisis will cost taxpayers an extra (EURO)3.3bn next year**](#Bookmark_118)

119. [**Refugee crisis: Tough decisions needed to avoid a 'surge of the extreme right' across Europe, warn EU leaders European Commission Vice-President says situation must be addressed properly, with border controls to deal with those arriving in Greece and Italy**](#Bookmark_119)

120. [**Refugee crisis: Denmark discourages asylum seekers with newspaper adverts in Lebanon The adverts listed tighter regulations that reduce benefits for refugees, delay families being able to join them and bring in Danish language requirements**](#Bookmark_120)

121. [**Paris attacks: Syrian refugees put shootings in French capital in perspective More than 200,000 people are believed to have been killed since Syria descended into war in early 2011 - but far from creating empathy for the plight of...**](#Bookmark_121)

122. [**Refugee crisis: How Europe's alarming lack of unity over the issue could bring about the break up of the EU As thousands clamour to be admitted to safety, Germany and Sweden offer welcome, some Eastern European nations will let in...**](#Bookmark_122)

123. [**Bloody aftermath of devastating Syria missile attack shown in video that reveals human impact of crisis Footage has emerged from Monday's missile attack in Aleppo that reportedly killed up to 32 people**](#Bookmark_123)

124. [**Paris attacks: Syrian refugees put shootings in French capital in perspective More than 200,000 people are believed to have been killed since Syria descended into war in early 2011 - but far from creating empathy for the plight of...**](#Bookmark_124)

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126. [**Refugee crisis: Germany 's 'welcome culture' fades as thousands continue to arrive Patience is running out in the border town ofPassau which has borne the brunt of the influx**](#Bookmark_126)

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129. [**US -led coalition jets strike Isis targets in Kobani as militant launch strikes across boreder into Turkey The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said US -led forces bombing Isis in Syria killed 10 civilians in two separate air strikes**](#Bookmark_129)

130. [**For centuries, every Syrian had a right of passage to Lebanon . Not any more With Beirut now enforcing its border, ROBERT FISK wonders if the million-plus who got across have any hope of returning**](#Bookmark_130)

131. [**On Lesbos with the stranded Syrian refugees hoping to make it to Britain : 'We die in the war or we die at sea' "When we arrived we could see the blue skies and the blue seas, and the Greek people were welcoming us, and we felt free."**](file:///C:\Users\Emma\Downloads\When#Bookmark_131)

132. [**Kerry: we won't save Kobani The US Secretary of State says that preventing the fall of the Syrian town is not a strategic objective. But there is still no sign that Turkey will step in to stop Isis gaining a foothold on its border...**](#Bookmark_132)

133. [**Record numbers of refugees fleeing United States for Canada Charities are warning an even greater influx could be on the horizon with Donald Trump in the White House**](#Bookmark_133)

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135. [**Internet responds to Donald Trump Jr's comparison between refugees and Skittles 'that could kill you' 'If you had a family of Trumps and one of them couldn't tell the difference between poisoned candy and people, would you vote on...**](#Bookmark_135)

136. [**Refugees in New Zealand told to subscribe to Kiwi values New Zealand Immigration Minister says refugees must follow Kiwi practices,**](#Bookmark_136)

137. [**Homegrown terrorists are still the deadliest threat to Americans**](#Bookmark_137)

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139. [**16 December is the worst date for a birthday, research finds Almost a third of December babies claim their birthday gets overlooked**](#Bookmark_139)

140. [**Refugee child prostrates herself at Pope Francis ' feet during emotional tour of Greek island of Lesbos A group of Syrian and Iraqi asylum seekers were detained trying to reach the island on a boat hours before his arrival**](#Bookmark_140)

141. [**Jo Cox dead: Labour MP fatally shot and stabbed outside constituency surgery in Birstall, West Yorkshire Husband leads tributes to rising star of Westminster and urges people to 'fight against the hate that killedher'**](#Bookmark_141)

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146. [**Assad's forces blamed as strikes kill 10 in Damascus and jeopardise peace talks The attack was one of the bloodiestsince the start of a partial ceasefire more than a month ago**](#Bookmark_146)

147. [**Roma gypsies most negatively perceived European minority group, survey finds YouGov poll was conducted in June of this year**](#Bookmark_147)

148. [**Why children's authors are taking on the refugee crisis More than a dozen new and forthcoming titles feature young Muslim refugees as protagonists, ranging from picture books to novels that delve into the darker issuesof the refugee crisis**](#Bookmark_148)

149. [**Cologne sexual assaults: Leaked police report reveals 'chaos beyond description' as women attacked 'I'm Syrian , you have to treat me nicely! Angela Merkel invited me,' one man reportedly told officers**](#Bookmark_149)

150. [**Home Office accused of abandoning vulnerable refugees of Syrian war**](#Bookmark_150)

151. [**Alan Kurdi: Relatives of drowned Syrian toddler receive warm welcome in Canada The three-year-old's relatives say they are determined his death not be in vain**](#Bookmark_151)

152. [**Syrian refugee girl's message to world leaders: 'Give us the power to make our hopes and dreams come true' Muzoon Almellehan is friends withMalala Yousafzai, the Pakistani education campaigner who was shot by the Taliban**](#Bookmark_152)

153. [**Paris attacks: The integration of immigrants through education is paramount Last week'soutrages in Paris must not change Britain 's plans to offer succour to people in need**](#Bookmark_153)

154. [**Why children's authors take on the refugee crisis More than a dozen new and forthcoming titles feature young Muslim refugees as protagonists, ranging from picture books to novels that delve into the darker issuesof the refugee crisis**](#Bookmark_154)

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159. [**EU ministers agree to relocate 120,000 refugees Theresa May says illegal economic migrants should be fingerprinted and returned**](#Bookmark_159)

160. [**'I would love to go to Europe but I am too scared' Refugee crisis More than one million refugees are stranded in Lebanon , where basic provisions are lacking, reports VENETIA RAINEY**](#Bookmark_160)

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166. [**Germany recruits 8,500 teachers to teach German to child refugees Around325,000 school-aged children from war-torn countriesreached Germany in 2015**](#Bookmark_166)

167. [**George and Amal Clooney meet with Angela Merkel to discuss Refugee Crisis David Miliband was also present**](#Bookmark_167)

168. [**Germany recruits 8,500 teachers to teach German to child refugees Around325,000 school-aged children from war-torn countriesreached Germany in 2015**](#Bookmark_168)

169. [**Birmingham becomes official City of Sanctuary for refugees**](#Bookmark_169)

170. [**Refugees coming to Europe an 'organised invasion', says Czech President Milos Zeman Milos Zeman says young men fleeing the Middle East should stay behind and take up arms**](#Bookmark_170)

171. [**Refugees coming to Europe an 'organised invasion', says Czech President Milos Zeman Milos Zeman says young men fleeing the Middle East should stay behind and take up arms**](#Bookmark_171)

172. [**Watch Donald Trump's most controversial moments during his presidential campaign The Republican presidential frontrunner has received a barrage of criticism following his proposal to ban all Muslims travelling to the United States .**](#Bookmark_172)

173. [**Maine sheriffs visit Isis-inspired Christmas display Concerned neighbors called local authorities and media over Christmas display featuring "ISIS" written in ruby-red lights**](file:///C:\Users\Emma\Downloads\ISIS#Bookmark_173)

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175. [**Justin Trudeau defends open refugee policy to Donald Trump at meeting Canadian Prime Minister hinted that his country would continue to welcome refugees without compromising national security**](#Bookmark_175)

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# [*Young people less likely to view refugees as major threat, survey finds; Majority of Americans aged over 65view refugees coming into the US as amajor threat, compared withless than a thirdof people younger than 35, according to findings*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N2V-YTG1-JCJY-G45F-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 12, 2017 Sunday 11:35 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS; Version:1

**Length:** 666 words

**Byline:** May Bulman

**Body**

Young people in the US are less likely to view Iraqi and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as a danger to the country,asurvey hasrevealed.

Six out of 10 Americans aged over 65

view large numbers of refugees from Iraq and Syria coming into the US as a major threat

, compared with

less than a third (31 per cent) of people younger than 35.

The survey, conducted by Pew Research in January, meanwhile reveals that nearly a quarter (23 per cent) of under 35s believe these refugees are "not a threat", while 11 per cent of those aged between 50 and 64 and just eight per cent of people over 65 considered this to be the case.

Young people less likely to view Iraqi, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as major threat to U.S. [*https://t.co/NwfY8z3y5Mpic.twitter.com/MPn7DnGsHH*](https://t.co/NwfY8z3y5Mpic.twitter.com/MPn7DnGsHH)

- Pew Research Center (@pewresearch) March 12, 2017

Overall, 46 per cent of the public said "a large number of refugees leaving countries such as Iraq and Syria" was a major threat to the well-being of the US, while about a third (35 per cent) considered this a minor threat and 16 per cent said it was not a threat at all.

This marks a decrease in the presumed threat over the past 10 months, with the share of adults who said refugees from Iraq and Syria posed a major threat falling by nine percentage points between April 2016 and last month,especially among younger adults.

The survey also showed high school students were considerably more likely than college graduates or post grads to consider refugees as a danger to the US, with exactly half of them considering it a major threat compared to 35 per cent of the older age group.

In terms of political leaning, about twice as many Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (63 per cent) as Democrats and Democratic leaners (30 per cent) said they considered refugees to be a major threat to the country.

Young people do not view Iraqi, ***Syrian*** #***refugees*** as threat to US @pewresearch#refugeeswelcomepic.twitter.com/1x2b3Imu6F

- CMS New York (@CMSnewyork) February 7, 2017

Ideological differences were even more pronounced, with 70 per cent of conservative Republicans and Republican leaners saying refugees represented a major threat, compared with just 19 per cent of liberal Democrats and Democratic leaners.

Fewer than half of Republicans younger than 35 (45 per cent) said these refugees were a major threat, compared with 78 per cent of Republicans aged 65 and older, while among Democrats, just 21 per cent of those younger than 35 saw refugees as a major threat, compared with

41 per cent

of those 65 and older.

Read more

Donald Trump's new travel ban suffers first legal setback

Trump travel ban could prevent USA from hosting 2026 World Cup

Bernie Sanders: Trump's new travel ban is 'ammunition for terrorists'

Trump calls refugees US agreed to resettle 'illegal immigrants'

Divisions over attitudestowards refugees appear to have widened in the US since Donald Trump took office. Vast crowdshaveattended marches and protests across the countryin support of those fleeing conflict.Meanwhile the Trump administration has maintained arelentlessanti-refugee sentiment.

Mr Trump signed an executive orderin late January thatbanned entry to the US for 90 days by citizens from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen andindefinitely halting refugees from Syria. The so-called travel ban

sparkednumerous lawsuits, including US District Judge JamesRobartin Washington state who blocked the ban on 3 February.

The President issued a new order on Monday that removed Iraq from the list of countries and will temporarily shutdown the refugee programme. Unlike the first order, it will not affect current visa holders and removes language that would give priority to religious minorities.

The new travel ban has alreadysuffered its first legal setback after a federal judge blocked its enforcement against a Syrian family trying to flee the war in their own country.Hawaii filed a lawsuit challenging the new ban on Wednesday, whileother states with Democratic attorneys general are reportedly planning to sue next week.

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[*Bana al-Abed: Seven-year-old Aleppan records video for Donald Trump asking him to remember Syrian refugees; "Mr Trump, have you ever had no food and water for 24 hours? Just think of the refugees and the children of Syria," girl blogger who escaped the Syrian civil war pleads*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MSM-CBY1-F021-6368-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 2, 2017 Thursday 12:32 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 407 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

The littlegirl who found a worldwide following tweeting about her hopes of going to school during the siege of Aleppo has recorded a message for US President Donald Trump, asking him to remember the plight of the Syrian people.

"Mr Trump, have you ever had no food and water for 24 hours? Just think of the refugees and the children of Syria," Bana Alabed says in a video uploaded to her account on Wednesday, which was shared more than 7,000 times.

The seven-year-old'splea comes after President Trump's executive order, which temporarily suspended the US' refugee resettlement programme, and indefinitely barred all Syrians from entering the country - a move decried worldwide as inhumane.

Read more

7-year-old Bana Alabed of Aleppo meets President Erdogan in Turkey

Seven-year-old Bana Alabed evacuated from Aleppo

Family in Aleppo posts farewell message as Assad regime forces advance

The far-reaching order also temporarily bars citizens of six otherMuslim countries, earning it the nickname 'Muslim ban.'

Bana and her family were evacuated from war-torn East Aleppo in December, after the city fell back under the control of the Syrian government.

She began tweeting about her fear of bombing and her desire to become a teacher when she grows up after her mother helped set up an account last September.

my video to Trump. " Mr @realdonaldtrump have u ever had no food & water for 24 hrs? Just think of refugees & the children of Syria." pic.twitter.com/qbaZGp0MvB

- Bana Alabed (@AlabedBana) February 1, 2017

It attracted followers from over the world - as well as critics such as Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, who called her posts "terrorist propaganda".

Bana, along with her parents and two younger brothers, was fortunate to be granted asylum in Turkey.

Photos from her Twitter account now show her enjoying normal aspects of childhood such as playgrounds, sweet shops, and new books.

Last month Bana tweeted a picture of a handwritten open letter she penned when Mr Trump took office.

James

Corden

films airport journey in protest at Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban'

"You must do something for the children of Syria because they are like your children and deserve peace like you," she wrote.

"I beg you, can you do something for the children of Syria? If you can, I will be your best friend," she said.

The UN estimates that at least 15,000 children are among the more than 300,000 people who have been killed in the country's six-year-old civil war.

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Syrian refugees send message to Theresa May: 'We need our children, we miss them so much'; Nick Clegg is among the supporters ofAmal and Muhammed Alwadi's campaign*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JS4-XXY1-F021-64G9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 13, 2016 Friday 7:05 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 760 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

"I need my children. I miss them so much - I hear their voices every day...but they are not with me."

Those are the words of a Syrian mother whose family is being kept apart by the UK's reunion rules for refugees.

Amal Alwadi and her husband Muhammed are living in Sheffield after their asylum applications were accepted by the British Government.

The Alwadi family became separated as they fled the Syrian civil war (British Red Cross)

But their teenage son remains stranded in a refugee camp in Calais, while their 20-year-old daughter is living in Turkey.

Read more

Refugee crisis: War and disaster internally displaces a record 40.8m people around the world, says report

Refugee crisis: Three-year-old child among Syrian asylum seekers 'shot by Turkish border guards'

Save The Children video shows what life would be like if British refugees were fleeing a UK civil war

In a video message to Theresa May, they described the pain of not seeing them in nine months.

"We fled our home country due to war, bombing and destruction - my children and I fled to other countries in Europe because our home was destroyed," Mr Alwadi, a former lawyer, said.

"Now I can no longer see them and they can no longer see me.

"They need me, for they are my children, a piece of me."

The Alwadi family became separated in 2012 when a crackdown on Arab Spring protests by the Syrian government and ensuing fighting forced them to flee to Libya.

Muhammed Alwadi and his wife Amal have been unable to get visas for their two older children to join them living in Sheffield. (British Red Cross)

But when the security situation there became increasingly dangerous amid violence by warring militias, Muhammed made the treacherous journey across the Mediterranean Sea to Italy.

He journeyed onwards to the UK and after being granted refugee status in December 2014, he immediately began the process of applying for family reunion.

Almost a year later his wife Amal and their two youngest children Lin and Majd were granted visas to join him, but the couple's two eldest children were refused because they were over the age of 18.

"I need my children, I miss them so much," Amal said.

"I still remember their voices in my ears every day. I miss their laughter, our late nights together, having fun together.

"Our life is truly heart-breaking without them."

Their eldest son, Kusai, was living with his sister Athar in Turkey but decided to make the journey to France last year and has been living in Calais for five months.

His mother said he is aware of nightly attempts by fellow asylum seekers to reach the UK through the Channel Tunnel but she begs him not to make the attempt.

The video message to the Home Secretary was recorded as part of the British Red Cross' "Torn Apart" campaign.

The charity is campaigning for a change in legislation to extend reunification to include young people who were living with their parents at the time they were forced to leave their home country.

Alex Fraser, its director of refugee support and international family tracing, said the Alwadi family was just one example of how current policy is forcing refugee families through more pain and trauma.

"No one should flee conflict only to endure more loss and pain simply because their child is over the age of 18," he said.

"You do not stop becoming parents to your children when your child turns 18.

One of their children has been living in a refugee camp in Calais for five months(PA)

"Any parent will tell you that the love and concern you have for your child does not lessen as they get older, and so that is why we are calling on the government to make a change to the rules and enable families to build a new life together, safe from conflict and persecution."

The Red Cross cited the Children Act 1989 among the examples of legislation classing young people up to the age of 25 in some circumstances.

The charity is working to reunite family members in the refugee crisis, helping 606 people so far this year.

Nick Clegg is among the politicians supporting the Torn Apart campaign.

"This is about decency and compassion. Families like the Alwadis have already had their lives turned upside down by conflict, they shouldn't have their families torn apart by petty technicalities in Britain too," the former deputy Prime Minister said.

"I hope the Home Secretary will listen to their story and those of families like them and expand the criteria to allow more families that have fled war and persecution can stay together."

A spokesperson for the Home Office has not yet responded to

The Independent

's request for a comment

**Load-Date:** May 13, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Indyplus news: Britain condemned for turning its back on Syria's refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BD2-3VW1-DXDT-62V2-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 28, 2014 Tuesday 5:50 PM GMT

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**Section:** INDEPENDENT PLUS

**Length:** 623 words

**Body**

The Government has been accused of adopting a "no room at the inn" policy after rejecting a United Nations appeal to allow refugees fleeing the crisis in Syria to live in Britain.

Ministers have decided not to join 16 nations, including the United States, France and Germany, which have pledged to allow a total of more than 10,000 refugees from the bloody three-year civil war to move to their countries.

Aid agencies are describing the UK Government's approach as "there's no room at the inn". Now the Labour Opposition is calling for ministers to accept between 400 and 500 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - including torture victims, people with family connections in Britain, and women and girls at high risk.

The Government insists it is better to help neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq cope as Syrians flee across their borders. Ministers say the UK is helping more than one million of the estimated 2.4 million refugees in what the UN views as the biggest emergency in its history.

Yvette Cooper, the shadow Home Secretary, told The Independent today: "We should be rightly proud of our humanitarian aid effort and the generosity of the British people. But we should also do our part, alongside other countries within the UN's programme, to provide a safe haven for some of the most vulnerable ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** fleeing this murderous conflict.

"The British Government cannot turn its back on these people. It is our moral duty to respond to the UN's call for help for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - just as our country has helped those fleeing persecution for hundreds of years."

The Refugee Council said only about 0.1 per cent of Syrians fleeing the violence had found safety in the UK. It is urging people to ask their MPs to tell David Cameron "that we must play our part in providing a safe haven for the most vulnerable fleeing the war".

Antonio Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said: "It is not only financial, economic, and technical support to these [neighbouring] states which is needed.

"It also includes receiving through resettlement, humanitarian admission, family reunification or similar mechanisms, refugees who are today in the neighbouring countries but who can find a solution outside the region."

Australia has pledged to take 500 Syrians for permanent resettlement and Sweden 400, while Germany will allow 5,000 temporary "humanitarian admissions" for two years and France 500. The US has not set an upper limit.

The UNHCR hopes other countries will follow suit through the flexible use of family reunification rules, waiving some visa requirements and allowing Syrians to enter for work, study, family or humanitarian purposes.

Mark Harper, the immigration minister, insisted: "The Government is committed to playing a leading part in the international relief effort."

In a letter to the Labour MP Meg Hillier, he said the UK was contributing £400,000 to a £10.5m European Union regional development and protection programme.

"I believe such initiatives should be our focus, rather than the resettlement or providing 'humanitarian evacuation' to displaced Syrians - initiatives which provide only limited relief to the neighbouring countries given the overall scale of the crisis they are facing," he said.

"I do not oppose other states choosing to offer humanitarian admission or resettlement to displaced Syrians. However, in my view, this should not be the focus of activity at present and is not the best way for the UK to make a difference."

Today the Home Office said the Government's £500m of aid to Syria was the UK's biggest ever response to a humanitarian crisis and almost equalled that of the other 27 EU countries combined. Some £217m will be spent inside Syria and £236m in neighbouring countries.

**Load-Date:** January 29, 2014

**End of Document**



[*How Donald Trump Jr's 'Skittles' comment has a history as a racist dogwhistle that goes back to the Nazis; It started with the killing of an innocent black teenager in 2014*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KRW-5HS1-JCJY-G16M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 20, 2016 Tuesday 4:05 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 631 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

Donald's Trump Jr's controversial comparison of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** with a bag of Skittles sweets has provoked outrage and distaste. Yet for those who know their right-wing memes it is nothing new, channeling as it does the killing of Trayvon Martin in 2012 and echoing Nazi propaganda.

This week, the presidential candidate's son posted an image on Twitter that said: "If I had a bowl of skittles and I told you just three would kill you, would you take a handful? That's our Syrian refugee problem."

The comment came a day before a pioneering United Nations summit in New York about the plight of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. But the comparison with sweetslongstanding associations.

Read more

Trump Jr likens refugees to poisoned Skittles, Skittles nail response

More than four years ago, a black youth called Trayvon Martin was shot dead by neighbourhood watch coordinator George Zimmerman.

The 17-year-old was found carrying a cigarette lighter, earphones, a can of watermelon fruit juice, a small amount of cash and a packet of Skittles.

Zimmerman claimed he had shot the boy out of "self-defence".

The brand's slogan, "Taste The Rainbow", became a symbol of the teenager's innocence.

Protesters mailed bags of the sweets to Bill Lee, chief of the Sanford police department. They waved pictures of the sweets like flags and hung them around their necks.

The killing sparked international outrage and spurred the Black Lives Matter campaign to become an important national movement, critical for raising awareness about the deaths of so many young black men at the hands of police officers.

But before Skittles became a symbol for lost innocence, the poisoned candy of choice for right-wing commentators was M&Ms, used as a way to make flawed generalisations about ethnic minorities.

In the 1940s, Nazi newspaper founder Julius Streicher wrote a book about the "poisoned mushroom" to indocrinate children in hate, referring to Jews "springing up in every country".

"Just as poisonous mushrooms often lead to the most dreadful calamity, so the Jew is the cause of misery and distress, illness and death," he describes a mother telling her child.

Mr Trump has come under fire over the years for his remarks about civil rights. Shortly after the wrongful conviction of the five black and Hispanic boys who were accused of raping and beating investment banker Trisha Meili in 1989, Mr Trump took out a full-page advert in several newspapers, calling for the death penalty.

This is not the first time Donald Trump's campaign has attempted to hijack worrying symbols for the election trail.

Source: Graphiq | Graphiq

Most recently the candidate, his son and close advisers posted images of Pepe the Frog, adding yellow hair to liken the cartoon amphibian to the Republican. Since late last year, the green cartoon has become associated with the white supremacist movement.

Read more

Ruby Rose warns we should be scared of Donald Trump and not laugh at him after Skittles row

Internet responds to Donald Trump Jr's comparison between refugees and Skittles 'that could kill you'

Donald Trump Jr provokes outrage after comparing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** 'to Skittles that could kill you'

The candidate was also criticised for tweeting an image of Hilary Clinton, calling her the "most corrupt candidate ever". The words were written inside the shape of a star, which was described by critics as an anti-semitic use of the Star of David and also associated with white supremacy.

Wrigley, the owner of Skittles, has distanced itself from Mr Trump's remarks.

"Skittles are candy. Refugees are people. We don't feel it's an appropriate analogy," vice president of corporate affairs Denise Young said in the statement.

"We will respectfully refrain from further commentary as anything we say could be misinterpreted as marketing."

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*How Donald Trump Jr's 'Skittles' comment has a history as a racist dogwhistle that goes back to the Nazis; It started with poisoned mushrooms, changing over time into sweets before finding its final form after the deathof an innocent black teenager in 2012*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KRW-5HS1-JCJY-G16N-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 20, 2016 Tuesday 4:05 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 631 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

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Read more

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**Load-Date:** September 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Video sees Greek coastguard accused of deliberately trying to sink refugee boats; Shocking footage appears to show a Greek crewman attempting to pierce the side of an inflatable dinghy carrying 60 people*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HF7-4761-JCJY-G2R7-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 22, 2015 Sunday 1:21 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 357 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

The Greek coastguard has been accused of deliberately trying to sink a boat full of desperate ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, after a video emerged appearing to show a crewman lunging at a rubber dinghy with a large pole.

The footage was reportedly captured by the Turkish coastguard on 12 November, and shows a small boat with up to 60 people on board screaming for help in dark on the Aegean Sea.

According to Reuters, the footage was released by the Turkish government this week and a complaint has been issued to Greek officials.

In the video, a man who appears to be a member of the Greek coastguard can be seen in an apparent attempt to pierce the side of the inflatable refugee boat.

As the vessel starts to sink, the Greek boat sails away, leaving the Turkish coastguard to rescue the drowning refugees. They were then taken back to the Turkish port city of Didim, the starting point for many trying to cross the Aegean into Europe.

Read more

Mother collects baby carriers to donate to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

The Scottish island where 15 Syrian refugee families will be rehoused

Syrian Paris attacks survivor defends refugees following US House vote

In a message to his Greek counterpart, Commander Rear Admiral Hakan Ustem of the Turkish coastguard said: "We would be very pleased if you order your team to refrain from such acts."

The Turkish daily, Hurriyet, reported that officials said Greek commander Athanasios Athanasopulos was "shocked" upon seeing the footage, and vowed to take action.

Human Rights Watch has previously raised concerns about attempts to disable refugee boats trying to reach Greece across the Aegean.

Unidentified "armed masked men" have been seen by multiple witnesses deliberately disabling boats and, in some cases, towing them back to Turkish waters.

"Disabling boats in the Aegean makes an already dangerous journey even more likely to result in death," saidEva Cossé, Greece specialist at Human Rights Watch, in a report in late October. "These criminal actions require an urgent response from the Greek authorities."

**Load-Date:** November 22, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Man rewrites refugee crisis to highlight hypocrisy of right-wing America; 'I would rather die, with hope in my heart, in a country that opens its arms to those in need, than live, ashamed, in one which turns its back'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HFM-RFG1-F021-62PB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 24, 2015 Tuesday 10:22 AM GMT

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**Section:** MEDIA

**Length:** 341 words

**Byline:** Kate Ng

**Body**

A man has"rewritten" the refugee crisis in aresponse to the growing clamour of right-wing America to bar Syriansfrom entering the country.

Thomas Keegan, an actor from Washington, has written about an imaginary world in which the crisis is happening in the US and it is Americans fleeing from the destruction of their cities rather than Syrians.

"You cannot believe it has come to this," he writes. "You are 10th generation American (of course you're not because this is America, not Syria, where that's actually a reality, but stay with me). You make the impossible decision to carry your small children and what possessions and valuables you can/have left, and you WALK to Canada."

Imagine that you live in Brooklyn. With your spouse and two kids. Suddenly, bombs are taking out city blocks all over...

Posted by Thomas Keegan onWednesday, November 18, 2015

Mr Keegan likens the refusal to take ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in to a fictitious scenario in which Canada turns Americans away because of mass shooter and white supremacist Dylan Roof, a white American Christian responsible for the deaths of nine people at a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina.

He ends the post saying: "This is my American truth: I would rather die, with hope in my heart, in a country that opens its arms to those in need, than live, ashamed, in one which turns its back."

Mr Keegan's post has been widely praised and already shared more than25,000 times.

The post was written after US politicians overwhelmingly approved a bill that blocks resettlement of refugees fleeing Syria and Iraq in the US.

Trump on Syrain refugees, 'they could be Isis, they could be anybody'

In the past week, Republican presidential candidates Ben Carson and Donald Trump have both been heavily criticised for their negative portrayals of refugees and Muslims.

Only 1,500 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have been accepted into the US since 2011, according to The Telegraph. Refugees must go through a vigorous"vetting" process before being resettled in the US, which can take two to three years to complete.

**Load-Date:** November 24, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Senior Tory ministers are 'avoiding live interviews to rely on statements and scripts'; Some major current affairs programmes and radio stations have been unable to interview a government minister since May*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWW-JP41-JCJY-G40M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 11, 2015 Friday 4:22 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 370 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Tory ministers are avoiding live interviews as they increasingly rely on carefully scripted statements and speeches, a journalist has claimed.

Chris Hemmings, who works at London radio station LBC, said that despite the prominence of the refugee crisis, one of his colleagues had not been able to interview a Home Office minister since May's general election.

The lack of senior Conservatives willing to appear on Sky News has reportedly been raised as a concern at a news meeting, he said, and a Channel 4 correspondent complained that ministers only agreed to an interview if they have a "policy drum to beat".

"It's not just Home Office ministers avoiding interviews; they're almost all becoming mysteriously 'unavailable' to broadcasters in an increasingly worrying trend," he wrote for The Independent Voices.

"It seems that, unless you're Andrew Marr or a Today Programme presenter, your access to ministers has been greatly restricted."

Read more: 'Shy Tory voters have elected shy Tories'Yvette Cooper condemns 'cowardly asylum policy'David Cameron criticised for Yorkshire comments

But even the BBC appears to be having issues. Nick Sutton, the prominent editor of Radio 4's World at One wrote on Twitter: "We've asked to [interview] a Minister from Home Office, DFID or FCO on ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Just been told none available."

Meanwhile, Labour's focus has been dominated by the leadership election, which will see a new Leader of the Opposition elected on Saturday.

We've asked to intv a Minister from Home Office, DFID or FCO on ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Just been told none available #watopic.twitter.com/L3bgAe5fmQ- Nick Sutton (@suttonnick) September 3, 2015

Mr Hemmings argued that when politicians become "unavailable" for questioning, they are unaccountable.

A backbench Conservative MP told him it was a "f\*\*\*ing disgrace" that his senior colleagues were declining interviews.

"We're only left with carefully worded statements, on [the politicians'] terms...each phrase is carefully selected by a team of strategists," he added.

"There is no replacement for live one-to-one broadcast interviews."

When The Independent asked the Conservative Party for an explanation, a spokesperson said: "We don't comment on process stories."

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syrian refugee children found working in Next and H&M factories; Next and H&M says refugees in Turkey were working in their supply-chain factories*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J0B-R9D1-JCJY-G4MK-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 1, 2016 Monday 9:30 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 682 words

**Byline:** Laura Pitel

**Body**

Two of Britain's high street giants have found Syrian refugee children working in their clothing factories in Turkey, leading to calls for other retailers to investigate their own supply chains.

H&M and Next were the only retailers that admitted to identifying child labour in supplier factories in Turkey, but there are fears that the phenomenon could be far more widespread after several other companies failed to answer questions on the use of Syrian workers in their factories.

Read more

Turkey could be gambling on an invasion of Syria

Along with China, Cambodia and Bangladesh, Turkey is one of the largest producers of clothing sold on the British high street, supplying labels that include Topshop, Burberry, Marks & Spencer and Asos.

The country is also the world's largest host of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, accepting more than 2.5 million people who have fled the conflict since 2011.

A report by the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC), a non-profit organisation that monitors company ethics, warns that few brands are taking adequate steps to ensure that vulnerable refugees are not "fleeing from conflict into exploitative working conditions".

Though Ankara has won praise for its "open door" policy towards ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, it was not until this month that it announced that they would be given the right to work after striking a deal with the EU as part of an effort to reduce the numbers flocking to Europe.

Hundreds of thousands of Syrian adults in Turkey work for low pay far below the minimum wage of 1,300 Turkish lira (£309) per month. Many children are employed as cheap labour on farms and factories in breach of Turkish and international laws that forbid those under 12 from working. Children aged 13-14 are banned from all but light work.

In an effort to gauge the scale of the problem, the BHRRC asked 28 major brands last month about their Turkish suppliers and their strategies for combating the exploitation of Syrian children and adults.

H&M and Next were the only ones which revealed that they had identified child labour over the course of 2015. Both companies said that they had taken action to return the children to education and support their families. They did not specify their ages.

Volunteer observes silence as baby girl washes up on Kagia beach

Read more

Turkish nationalist suspected of killing Russian pilot in Syria

Vladimir Putin hits out at Turkey in crude attack over downed warplane

Obama demands that Turkey close border with Syria

Primark and C&A said they had identified adult Syrian refugee workers. Adidas, Burberry, Nike, and Puma all stated that no undocumented ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** were found in their supply chain. So too did Arcadia Group, which owns Topshop, Dorothy Perkins and Burton Menswear.

All other brands that responded - including M&S, Asos, Debenhams and Superdry - remained silent on the question of Syrian workers. Ten companies, including GAP, New Look and River Island, have yet to respond.

The BHRRC said that it was alarmed by the responses, warning: "Only a few brands appear to have engaged with the extent and the complexity of these issues in their Turkish supply base; even fewer report taking action to protect these vulnerable workers." It said that many companies appeared to have an "out of sight, out of mind" approach to auditing their factories, conducting preannounced visits that could allow factory managers to cover up abuses.

Phil Bloomer, executive director of the BHRRC, said that H&M and Next deserved praise for their honesty and urged other companies to take the problem seriously. He said: "No brands want child labour in their supply chain, but what matters is how vigorous they are in looking for it and what they do when they find it. Given reports from the ground indicate refugee child labour is common in Turkey, it is positive that two brands in our report identified this problem and took action to protect the children. We need all brands to show equal vigour in eliminating this curse."

**Load-Date:** February 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis scale massively underestimated by UK public, report finds; Nearly five million Syrians have been displaced by the civil war, yet Britons believe the figure to be closer to 300,000*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JKN-6Y31-F021-6031-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 22, 2016 Friday 5:29 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 638 words

**Byline:** Joe Nerssessian

**Body**

The British public underestimates the number of refugeesfleeing Syria by 4.5 million people, a report has found.

Nearly five million Syrians have been displaced by the civil war, yet Britons believe the figure to be closer to 300,000, the study says - 16 times fewer than official figures suggest.

The report also found the public believed the UK had accepted 10,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - twice as many as the latest official number of 5,000. The Government has pledged to accept 20,000 Syrians by 2020.

The Humanitarian Index compared six nations which have accepted refugees, revealing a huge public underestimation of the scale of the crisis and an exaggerated perception of their own governments' response.

The US, UK, Germany, France, Iran and Lebanon were surveyed in the report, carried out by the Edelman group, a communications firm, as campaigners and charities meet this weekend at a humanitarian conference in Armenia.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the conflict has caused 4.8 million Syrians to flee their homes since 2011 - more than the adult population of Scotland.

Read more

Turkish border guards 'shoot eight ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** dead'

The survey, which claims to be the first of its kind to attempt to compare international opinion, conducted online interviews with 4,800 people from six nations, including 1,000 British adults representative of the general population in terms of age and gender.

Across the surveyed countries, the refugee crisis was seen as a more pressing issue than hunger, water and climate change. Half the people questioned said they thought the Syrian people had been abandoned by the international community.

It also found Britons have more faith in foreign leaders Angela Merkel and Barack Obama to sort the crisis than in their own prime minister. Just 39% of those surveyed in the UK said David Cameron was the most capable world leader to deal with the crisis.

And despite the continued uncertainty surrounding the future of the European Union, almost half of Britons back it in taking the lead on dealing with the crisis.

UN probes reports of refugee deaths after ship sinks

The index was carried out on behalf of the inaugural humanitarian award, the Aurora Prize, which is set to be handed out by actor George Clooney this weekend during a discussion between charities, delegates and organisations over the refugee crisis.

Vartan Gregorian, a member of the Aurora Prize selection committee, called for the public to be "better informed" on the facts surrounding the crisis.

He said: "The gulf between the public's understanding of the refugee crisis and reality should weigh heavily on all of us.

Read more

UK to take in up to 3,000 vulnerable child refugees, says Home Office

Syrian refugee 'dies after being hit by police van' in Greece

'Up to 500 dead' in refugee boat sinking, survivors tell UN investigators

Syrian girl campaigns against child marriage from her refugee camp in Jordan

"Underestimating the scale of the problem means that the public also underestimates the investment required to alleviate the crisis. A better-informed public would be in a position to compel governments to act."

Oxfam accused the Government of "pretending this is someone else's problem".

Maya Mailer, head of policy and campaigns, said: "At a time when the number of people forced to flee their homes has reached record levels, it is shocking that the UK has taken in less than 1% of refugees. As the world's fifth biggest economy, the UK can and should do more to help vulnerable people fleeing war, persecution and poverty."

She added: "While the British Government has been generous in providing financial aid, it has just offered to resettle 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** by 2020. This equates to each of our 69 cities receiving only around 60 people per year, hardly an influx."

Press Association

**Load-Date:** April 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian children found working for UK clothing suppliers including Next and H&M; Next and H&M says refugees in Turkey were working in their supply-chain factories*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J09-JR91-F021-61KJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 1, 2016 Monday 12:20 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 672 words

**Byline:** Laura Pitel

**Body**

Two of Britain's high street giants have found Syrian refugee children working in their clothing factories in Turkey, leading to calls for other retailers to investigate their own supply chains.

H&M and Next were the only retailers that admitted to identifying child labour in supplier factories in Turkey, but there are fears that the phenomenon could be far more widespread after several other companies failed to answer questions on the use of Syrian workers in their factories.

Read more

Turkey could be gambling on an invasion of Syria

Along with China, Cambodia and Bangladesh, Turkey is one of the largest producers of clothing sold on the British high street, supplying labels that include Topshop, Burberry, Marks & Spencer and Asos.

The country is also the world's largest host of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, accepting more than 2.5 million people who have fled the conflict since 2011.

A report by the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC), a non-profit organisation that monitors company ethics, warns that few brands are taking adequate steps to ensure that vulnerable refugees are not "fleeing from conflict into exploitative working conditions".

Though Ankara has won praise for its "open door" policy towards ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, it was not until this month that it announced that they would be given the right to work after striking a deal with the EU as part of an effort to reduce the numbers flocking to Europe.

Hundreds of thousands of Syrian adults in Turkey work for low pay far below the minimum wage of 1,300 Turkish lira (£309) per month. Many children are employed as cheap labour on farms and factories in breach of Turkish and international laws that forbid those under 12 from working. Children aged 13-14 are banned from all but light work.

In an effort to gauge the scale of the problem, the BHRRC asked 28 major brands last month about their Turkish suppliers and their strategies for combating the exploitation of Syrian children and adults.

H&M and Next were the only ones which revealed that they had identified child labour over the course of 2015. Both companies said that they had taken action to return the children to education and support their families. They did not specify their ages.

Read more

Turkish nationalist suspected of killing Russian pilot in Syria

Vladimir Putin hits out at Turkey in crude attack over downed warplane

Obama demands that Turkey close border with Syria

Primark and C&A said they had identified adult Syrian refugee workers. Adidas, Burberry, Nike, and Puma all stated that no undocumented ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** were found in their supply chain. So too did Arcadia Group, which owns Topshop, Dorothy Perkins and Burton Menswear.

All other brands that responded - including M&S, Asos, Debenhams and Superdry - remained silent on the question of Syrian workers. Ten companies, including GAP, New Look and River Island, have yet to respond.

The BHRRC said that it was alarmed by the responses, warning: "Only a few brands appear to have engaged with the extent and the complexity of these issues in their Turkish supply base; even fewer report taking action to protect these vulnerable workers." It said that many companies appeared to have an "out of sight, out of mind" approach to auditing their factories, conducting preannounced visits that could allow factory managers to cover up abuses.

Phil Bloomer, executive director of the BHRRC, said that H&M and Next deserved praise for their honesty and urged other companies to take the problem seriously. He said: "No brands want child labour in their supply chain, but what matters is how vigorous they are in looking for it and what they do when they find it. Given reports from the ground indicate refugee child labour is common in Turkey, it is positive that two brands in our report identified this problem and took action to protect the children. We need all brands to show equal vigour in eliminating this curse."

**Load-Date:** February 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian refugee children found working in Next and H&M factories; Next and H&M says refugees in Turkey were working in their supply-chain factories*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J0B-R9D1-JCJY-G4MJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 1, 2016 Monday 8:08 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 672 words

**Byline:** Laura Pitel

**Body**

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Read more

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**Load-Date:** February 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Aylan Kurdi's aunt still fighting for family to move to Canada as she blames herself for deaths; 'If I didn't send him the smugglers' money, those people would still be alive'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVJ-X261-F021-63P2-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 5, 2015 Saturday 10:41 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 660 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The aunt of the Syrian boy who drowned trying to reach Europe with his family has said she will still fight to bring his relatives to safety in Canada.

Aylan Kurdi, three, died alongside his five-year-old brother Ghalib and their mother, Rehanna, after their overcrowded boat capsized as they attempted the perilous journey from Turkey to Greece over the Aegean Sea.

Tima Kurdi, the boy's aunt, said that she still hopes her brother will emigrate to Canada, where she has lived for more than 20 years, after losing his wife and children.

But as Aylan was buried in his war-torn hometown of Kobani yesterday, Abdullah Kurdi told relatives he never wants to leave Syria again.

"He only wanted to go to Europe for the sake of his children," said Suleiman Kurdi, an uncle of the grieving father. "Now that they're dead, he wants to stay here in Kobani next to them."

Read more: Canada investigates refugee applicationAylan Kurdi buried by his father in KobaniCameron pledges to take in more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Speaking to journalists outside her home in British Columbia, Ms Kurdi said: "We're all emotionally affected by what happened right now. I'm sure (Aylan's father will) refuse and he doesn't want to leave Kobani.

"But one day, I will bring him here. He cannot be by himself there."

Kobani has been ravaged by the Syrian civil war, being besieged by Isis for several months last year, sparking bombing campaigns and street fighting that destroyed much of the city.

Ms Kurdi said Isis had beheaded one of Rehanna's relatives during their siege, with her brother sending her a photo of the mutilated body.

She previously said she wanted to bring both her brothers to Canada after the violence broke out, but made the first refugee application for her eldest sibling Mohammed, which was rejected because it was incomplete.

She said that the failed application prompted her brother to embark on journey from Turkey, and that she sent him $5,000 (£3,300) smugglers demanded to take the family on the fatal voyage.

"I am the one who should be at blame," Ms Kurdi told the Associated Press.

"I blame myself because my brother does not have money. I sent him the money to pay the smuggler. If I didn't send him the money, those people still (would be) alive."

She said the trip was the "only option" left for the family to have a better life in a European country, possibly Germany or Sweden.

Photos of Aylan's body washed up on a beach in Turkey have put Canada's refugee policy in the spotlight, forcing the immigration minister to halt his election campaign, but Ms Kurdi said she does not blame the government.

She hopes Citizenship and Immigration service stops requiring the document missing from Mohammed's application, which she said was almost impossible to secure in the chaos of Syria.

Kurdi spoke to both her brothers by phone on Friday and watched emotional footage of her two young nephews being buried in Kobani, wishing she could have been there to say goodbye.

"Abdullah said to me, 'I don't want you to come. It's dangerous,"' she said, crying. "I (could) stay there for the rest of my life, sitting beside their grave, feed them, give them water."

A spokesperson for Canada's Department of Citizenship and Immigration confirmed that an application for Mohammad Kurdi and his family was rejected in June. The refugee crisis - in pictures

The country has committed to resettling 10,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, housing more than 2,300 so far.

Images of Aylan's body reignited anger over the deaths of thousands of desperate refugees trying to reach Europe around the world, sparking calls for increased efforts by EU governments to give them a home.

David Cameron has announced that Britain will take in "thousands more" ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in response to a tide of public support.

This newspaper has started a campaign for the UK to welcome a fair share of refugees.

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

Additional reporting by AP

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*We're not migrants. We're citizens of the EU; Sketch*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HT6-3XC1-F072-42YR-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 8, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 12

**Length:** 308 words

**Byline:** TOM PECK

**Body**

On David Cameron's never-ending EU renegotiation tour, Budapest should have been the political equivalent of slipping into a nice warm public bath.

It is hard to imagine a closer union than between our Prime Minister and Hungary's Viktor Orban. This is a chap whose tough talk on benefit scroungers won him three elections, whose response to the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** was to erect a fence along his border, and who - of course - went to Oxford.

There is the odd difference. Having played pro football for FC Felcsut - once, at the age of 38, cancelling a cabinet meeting to do so - Orban has not yet made Cameron's mistake of forgetting their name in public.

That's not the only one. Like virtually every other European leader Cameron has foisted himself upon over the past few weeks, Orban is fine with all of Cameron's demands, More than fine, "grateful", he said, with the exception of the only one that matters - the clampdown on in-work benefits for EU migrants.

Orban spoke in fluent English throughout the joint press conference, switching to Magyar for the one answer that mattered. "This is important," he said. "The language must be precise." It must also, one suspects, be for the benefit of his voters.

This is how it was translated: "We would like to make it clear we are not migrants into the UK. We are citizens of the European Union who can take jobs anywhere within the EU. We do not want to go to the UK and take away from them, to be parasites. Those Hungarians who are there are contributing??? They should not be discriminated against."

Earlier, Cameron reminded him that he doesn't have to hold "my referendum" until the end of 2017. "What matters is the substance, not the timing." But the reason he has been zipping around Europe like an easyJet air hostess is because he wanted a deal done by February. Next month. It's not happening.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Exclusive: A call of duty - 25 leading charities urge PM to open Britain's door to its share of Syria's most vulnerable refugees; As the plight of its displaced civilians grows more desperate still, the organisations call on David Cameron to 'transform the lives' of those most affected by the civil war*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5B9P-DP61-DXDT-650M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 17, 2014 Friday 8:04 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 1703 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill, Andrew Grice

**Body**

Britain must accept its "shared responsibility" for Syria's refugees and join a UN scheme to welcome those fleeing the conflict, a coalition of 25 aid agencies and charities tells David Cameron.

In an open letter published in The Independent, the organisations call on the Prime Minister to "transform the lives" of Syrians displaced by the civil war in their country by committing the UK to participate in the UNHCR's global resettlement programme.

More than two million refugees have been registered by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Syria's four neighbouring countries, in what has been labelled the "defining humanitarian crisis of our time".

Western governments have been asked to accept 30,000 of the most vulnerable refugees from the region under the rehousing scheme. But Britain has so far refused to take part, instead emphasising the importance of the substantial financial aid it is offering.

The letter is the first time that major aid agencies, including Oxfam and Save the Children, have gone public with calls for the resettlement of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to the UK.

Among the signatories to the letter are the directors and chief executives of Amnesty International UK, Action Aid, Cafod, Muslim Aid, War Child, the Refugee Council, Asylum Aid, Freedom from Torture, Refugee Action and Islamic Relief Worldwide.

Raising the "catastrophic" prospect that countries neighbouring Syria could begin to refuse civilians an escape route, the groups ask: "How can we call on Syria's neighbours to keep their borders open to refugees if we keep our own under lock and key?"

The Independent understands there is growing concern among senior figures in the UNHCR and other organisations active in the region that if countries such as Britain don't "step up to the plate" to accept refugees, states such as Lebanon and Jordan may consider turning them away.

If the borders are closed there aid agencies fear displaced Syrians will be trapped in terrible conditions inside the country's internal refugee camps.

The Independent reported on Thursday on the conditions in the Yarmouk refugee camp near Damascus, where 18,000 people live cut off from supplies and medical aid and people are reportedly eating grass as well as cat and dog meat.

The Refugee Council has warned that countries in the region "may wave people through and encourage them to find other routes to Europe" if the UNHCR resettlement programme is not implemented.

Syria's neighbours are coming under increasing difficulty from the number of refugees entering their territory. Close to a million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are scattered all across Lebanon. They are never far from sight; scruffy children begging at the capital's bars, polishing shoes or selling lottery tickets.

Thousands live in makeshift tents. Some have little more than a dirt floor to sleep on. A fifth of the population of Lebanon is now Syrian; proportionately, this is the equivalent of the entirety of Greece and Albania moving to the UK.

Maurice Wren, chief executive of the Refugee Council, said: "The situation in Syria is appreciably deteriorating, and that's why we think it has become increasingly perverse for Government to say the only answer is to provide more financial assistance.

"We've already seen an element of people voting with their feet because they don't like the conditions in the refugee camps [in Lebanon and Jordan]. And we've seen an increase in the number of Syrians coming through the well-established people-smuggling routes across the Mediterranean and through Turkey."

The UNHCR, European Commission and Refugee Council have all urged the British government to go further than donating aid and accept the temporary resettlement of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** inside the UK.

MPs from the three main parties have given their support to today's open letter, despite Mr Cameron and the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's resistance to the idea. The Government argues the UK has played its part by donating £600m to the UN's appeal, the country's biggest-ever response to a humanitarian crisis. Ministers insist this is the most effective way of helping the Syrian people.

Mr Clegg said last week that Britain had already accepted about 1,500 asylum-seekers from Syria. However, the Deputy Prime Minister's comments were labelled as "evasive and disingenuous" by the Refugee Council, which warned that the 2.3 million refugees who have fled Syria have little prospect of being able to get to Britain to claim asylum.

Kate Allen, director of Amnesty International UK and a signatory to today's letter, said: "It's to our shame that we have watched this human tragedy unfold and have failed to offer to resettle a single refugee from the overflowing camps."

Mr Clegg faced pressure from within his own party to change his line. Sir Menzies Campbell, the party's former leader, said: "The UK has rightly led financial efforts to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** but surely we can afford to be more generous.

"When other allies like the US, France and Germany are admitting up to 10,000 refugees, why can't we do the same, or are we now so intimidated by Ukip that we have lost our humanity?"

Labour has led calls for Britain to accept between 400-500 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Yvette Cooper, the shadow Home Secretary, said: "France, Germany, Austria, Finland, Holland, Ireland and others have all agreed to do their bit. People will feel ashamed that our government is one of the only ones to refuse to help. It is immoral to stand aside and refuse to help when countries as far afield as Canada and Australia are willing to."

Many Conservative MPs are not convinced Britain should to open its doors to hundreds of refugees. But Brooks Newmark, Tory MP for Braintree, who has just returned from a three-day visit to camps on the Syrian-Turkish border, said he was "sympathetic to the idea" of accepting a limited number.

"I would support bringing to this country people who cannot get medical support - such as babies, small children, the severely injured," he said.

The UNHCR High Commissioner Antonio Guterres said the international community needed to assume "a true attitude of burden-sharing". He said: "It is unacceptable to see ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** drowning and dying in the Mediterranean sea or being pushed back from borders."

The letter

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you on behalf of the most vulnerable refugees from Syria who are struggling to survive in crowded refugee camps and makeshift shelters. They have witnessed and survived unimaginable horrors. Meanwhile Syrians living in the UK are desperately worried about their families.

The UK deserves credit for its leadership in providing assistance to refugees in the region, including £600m in aid, helping millions of families survive. However, given the scale and the gravity of the humanitarian crisis unfolding across the region, we would urge the UK to join the 18 other states participating in UNHCR's global resettlement programme. Those with family already in the UK should be allowed to reunite with their loved ones.

UNHCR has appealed for Western governments to accept 30,000 of the most vulnerable refugees from the region. This would include women at risk, children who are in need of special assistance, vulnerable older adults and torture survivors who will simply struggle to survive in the harsh conditions in the region. We must play our part in offering them a place of safety.

This number may seem like a drop in the ocean, but it would transform the lives of each person resettled and help countries like Lebanon and Jordan who are already feeling the strain. In Lebanon, one of the most densely populated countries in the world, a fifth of the population are now ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

People in neighbouring states have shown incredible compassion and opened their homes to hundreds of thousands of people but we all have a shared responsibility. It would be catastrophic if the neighbouring countries closed their borders to the thousands of people who flee the conflict every day. Yet how can we call on Syria's neighbours to keep their borders open to refugees if we keep our own under lock and key?

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Wren, CEO, Refugee Council

Kate Allen, director, Amnesty International

Richard Miller, executive director, ActionAid

Wayne Myslik, CEO, Asylum Aid

Chris Bain, director, Cafod

Paul Valentin, international director, Christian Aid

Tiffy Allen, national coordinator, City of Sanctuary

Chris Doyle, director, Council for Arab-British Understanding

Keith Best, CEO, Freedom from Torture

Faddy Sahloul, chairman, Hand in Hand for Syria

Dr Mohamed Ashmawey, CEO, Islamic Relief Worldwide

Peter Balleis SJ, international director, Jesuit Refugee Service

Dr Edie Friedman, executive director, Jewish Council for Racial Equality

Syed Sharfuddin, CEO, Muslim Aid

Jim Steinke, CEO, Northern Refugee Centre

Mohamed Nasreldin, CEO, North of England Refugee Service

Mark Goldring, CEO, Oxfam

Dave Garrett, CEO, Refugee Action

Michel Gabaudan, president, Refugees International

Amy Lythgoe, chair of trustees, Refugee  Welcome Trust

Justin Forsyth, CEO, Save the Children

John Wilkes, CEO, Scottish Refugee Council

Emma Williams, CEO, Student Action for Refugees

Rob Williams, CEO, War Child

Salah Mohamed, CEO, Welsh Refugee Council

'War crime': Yarmouk's aid blockade

The UN's top human-rights official says the repeated obstruction of convoys trying to resupply the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in Syria may amount to a war crime.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said numerous attempts by the UN and other organisations over the past four months to deliver aid to the 18,000 people in the camp have been thwarted.

The siege of Yarmouk, highlighted in Thursday's Independent, has led to more than 50 hunger-related deaths since October. The blockade by Syrian government forces has been in place for over a year, and civilians have borne the brunt of fighting between the government and rebels.

Ms Pillay said in a statement that badly needed food and medical aid is not reaching malnourished children, women and elderly people close to starvation because of "a quagmire between besieging Syrian government forces and affiliated militias surrounding the Yarmouk camp, as well as anti-government armed groups operating inside".

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2014

**End of Document**



[*A call of duty; As the plight of Syria's displaced civilians grows more desperate still, 25 leading charities urge David Cameron to open Britain's door to its share of the most vulnerable refugees EXCLUSIVE 'It is immoral for us to stand aside and refuse to help'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5B9N-3V81-JCS0-D04H-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 18, 2014 Saturday

Second Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1712 words

**Byline:** JAMIE MERRILL and ANDREW GRICE

**Body**

Britain must accept its "shared responsibility" for Syria's refugees and join a UN scheme to welcome those fleeing the conflict, a coalition of 25 aid agencies and charities tells David Cameron today.

In an open letter published in The Independent, the organisations call on the Prime Minister to "transform the lives" of Syrians displaced by the civil war in their country by committing the UK to participate in the UNHCR's global resettlement programme.

More than two million refugees have been registered by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Syria's four neighbouring countries, in what has been labelled the "defining humanitarian crisis of our time".

Western governments have been asked to accept, between them, 30,000 of the most vulnerable refugees from the region under the rehousing scheme. But Britain has so far refused to take part, instead emphasising the importance of the substantial financial aid it is offering.

The letter is the first time that major aid agencies, including Oxfam and Save the Children, have gone public with calls for the resettlement of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to the UK.

Among the signatories to the letter are the directors and chief executives of Amnesty International UK, Action Aid, Cafod, Muslim Aid, War Child, the Refugee Council, Asylum Aid, Freedom from Torture, Refugee Action and Islamic Relief Worldwide.

Raising the "catastrophic" prospect that countries neighbouring Syria could begin to refuse civilians an escape route, the groups ask: "How can we call on Syria's neighbours to keep their borders open to refugees if we keep our own under lock and key?"

The Independent understands there is growing concern among senior figures in the UNHCR and other organisations active in the region that if countries such as Britain don't "step up to the plate" to accept refugees, states such as Lebanon and Jordan may consider turning them away. If the borders are closed there aid agencies fear displaced Syrians will be trapped in terrible conditions inside the country's internal refugee camps.

The Independent reported yesterday on the conditions in the Yarmouk refugee camp near Damascus, where 18,000 people live cut off from supplies and medical aid and people are reportedly eating grass as well as cat and dog meat.

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Maurice Wren, chief executive of the Refugee Council, said: "The situation in Syria is appreciably deteriorating, and that's why we think it has become increasingly perverse for Government to say the only answer is to provide more financial assistance.

"We've already seen an element of people voting with their feet because they don't like the conditions in the refugee camps [in Lebanon and Jordan]. And we've seen an increase in the number of Syrians coming through the well-established people-smuggling routes across the Mediterranean and through Turkey."

The UNHCR, European Commission and Refugee Council have all urged the British government to go further than donating aid and accept the temporary resettlement of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** inside the UK.

MPs from the three main parties have given their support to today's open letter, despite Mr Cameron and the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's resistance to the idea. The Government argues the UK has played its part by donating £600m to the UN's appeal, the country's biggest-ever response to a humanitarian crisis. Ministers insist this is the most effective way of helping the Syrian people.

Mr Clegg said last week that Britain had already accepted about 1,500 asylum-seekers from Syria. However, the Deputy Prime Minister's comments were labelled as "evasive and disingenuous" by the Refugee Council, which warned that the 2.3 million refugees who have fled Syria have little prospect of being able to get to Britain to claim asylum.

Kate Allen, director of Amnesty International UK and a signatory to today's letter, said: "It's to our shame that we have watched this human tragedy unfold and have failed to offer to resettle a single refugee from the overflowing camps."

Mr Clegg faced pressure from within his own party to change his line. Sir Menzies Campbell, the party's former leader, said yesterday: "The UK has rightly led financial efforts to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** but surely we can afford to be more generous.

"When other allies like the US, France and Germany are admitting up to 10,000 refugees, why can't we do the same, or are we now so intimidated by Ukip that we have lost our humanity?"

Labour has led calls for Britain to accept between 400-500 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Yvette Cooper, the shadow Home Secretary, said: "France, Germany, Austria, Finland, Holland, Ireland and others have all agreed to do their bit. People will feel ashamed that our Government is one of the only ones to refuse to help. It is immoral to stand aside and refuse to help when countries as far afield as Canada and Australia are willing to."

Many Conservative MPs are not convinced Britain should to open its doors to hundreds of refugees. But Brooks Newmark, Tory MP for Braintree, who has just returned from a three-day visit to camps on the Syrian-Turkish border, said he was "sympathetic to the idea" of accepting a limited number.

"I would support bringing to this country people who cannot get medical support - such as babies, small children, the severely injured," he said.

Speaking yesterday the UNHCR High Commissioner Antonio Guterres said the international community needed to assume "a true attitude of burden-sharing".

He said: "It is unacceptable to see ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** drowning and dying in the Mediterranean sea or being pushed back from borders."

**'WAR CRIME'**

**YARMOUK'S AID BLOCKADE**

The UN's top human-rights official says the repeated obstruction of convoys trying to resupply the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in Syria may amount to a war crime.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said numerous attempts by the UN and other organisations over the past four months to deliver aid to the 18,000 people in the camp have been thwarted.

The siege of Yarmouk, highlighted in yesterday's Independent, has led to more than 50 hunger-related deaths since October. The blockade by Syrian government forces has been in place for over a year, and civilians have borne the brunt of fighting between the government and rebels.

Ms Pillay said in a statement yesterday that badly needed food and medical aid is not reaching malnourished children, women and elderly people close to starvation because of "a quagmire between besieging Syrian government forces and affiliated militias surrounding the Yarmouk camp, as well as anti-government armed groups operating inside".

**THE LETTER**

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you on behalf of the most vulnerable refugees from Syria who are struggling to survive in crowded refugee camps and makeshift shelters. They have witnessed and survived unimaginable horrors.

Meanwhile Syrians living in the UK are desperately worried about their families.

The UK deserves credit for its leadership in providing assistance to refugees in the region, including £600m in aid, helping millions of families survive. However, given the scale and the gravity of the humanitarian crisis unfolding across the region, we would urge the UK to join the 18 other states participating in UNHCR's global resettlement programme.

Those with family already in the UK should be allowed to reunite with their loved ones.

UNHCR has appealed for Western governments to accept 30,000 of the most vulnerable refugees from the region. This would include women at risk, children who are in need of special assistance, vulnerable older adults and torture survivors who will simply struggle to survive in the harsh conditions in the region. We must play our part in offering them a place of safety.

This number may seem like a drop in the ocean, but it would transform the lives of each person resettled and help countries like Lebanon and Jordan who are already feeling the strain. In Lebanon, one of the most densely populated countries in the world, a fifth of the population are now ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

People in neighbouring states have shown incredible compassion and opened their homes to hundreds of thousands of people but we all have a shared responsibility.

It would be catastrophic if the neighbouring countries closed their borders to the thousands of people who flee the conflict every day. Yet how can we call on Syria's neighbours to keep their borders open to refugees if we keep our own under lock and key?

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Wren, CEO, Refugee Council

Kate Allen, director, Amnesty International

Richard Miller, executive director, ActionAid

Wayne Myslik, CEO, Asylum Aid

Chris Bain, director, Cafod

Paul Valentin, international director, Christian Aid

Tiffy Allen, national coordinator, City of Sanctuary

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Keith Best, CEO, Freedom from Torture

Faddy Sahloul, chairman, Hand in Hand for Syria

Dr Mohamed Ashmawey, CEO, Islamic Relief Worldwide

Peter Balleis SJ, international director, Jesuit Refugee Service

Dr Edie Friedman, executive director, Jewish Council for Racial Equality

Syed Sharfuddin, CEO, Muslim Aid

Jim Steinke, CEO, Northern Refugee Centre

Mohamed Nasreldin, CEO, North of England Refugee Service

Mark Goldring, CEO, Oxfam

Dave Garrett, CEO, Refugee Action

Michel Gabaudan, president, Refugees International

Amy Lythgoe, chair of trustees, Refugee Welcome Trust

Justin Forsyth, CEO, Save the Children

John Wilkes, CEO, Scottish Refugee Council

Emma Williams, CEO, Student Action for Refugees

Rob Williams, CEO, War Child

Salah Mohamed, CEO, Welsh Refugee Council

**Load-Date:** January 21, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Exclusive: A call of duty - 25 leading charities urge PM to open Britain's door to 30,000 of Syria's most vulnerable refugees; As the plight of its displaced civilians grows more desperate still, the organisations call on David Cameron to 'transform the lives' of those most affected by the civil war*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5B9P-DP61-DXDT-650K-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 17, 2014 Friday 7:29 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 1705 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill, Andrew Grice

**Body**

Britain must accept its "shared responsibility" for Syria's refugees and join a UN scheme to welcome those fleeing the conflict, a coalition of 25 aid agencies and charities tells David Cameron.

In an open letter published in The Independent, the organisations call on the Prime Minister to "transform the lives" of Syrians displaced by the civil war in their country by committing the UK to participate in the UNHCR's global resettlement programme.

More than two million refugees have been registered by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Syria's four neighbouring countries, in what has been labelled the "defining humanitarian crisis of our time".

Western governments have been asked to accept 30,000 of the most vulnerable refugees from the region under the rehousing scheme. But Britain has so far refused to take part, instead emphasising the importance of the substantial financial aid it is offering.

The letter is the first time that major aid agencies, including Oxfam and Save the Children, have gone public with calls for the resettlement of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to the UK.

Among the signatories to the letter are the directors and chief executives of Amnesty International UK, Action Aid, Cafod, Muslim Aid, War Child, the Refugee Council, Asylum Aid, Freedom from Torture, Refugee Action and Islamic Relief Worldwide.

Raising the "catastrophic" prospect that countries neighbouring Syria could begin to refuse civilians an escape route, the groups ask: "How can we call on Syria's neighbours to keep their borders open to refugees if we keep our own under lock and key?"

The Independent understands there is growing concern among senior figures in the UNHCR and other organisations active in the region that if countries such as Britain don't "step up to the plate" to accept refugees, states such as Lebanon and Jordan may consider turning them away.

If the borders are closed there aid agencies fear displaced Syrians will be trapped in terrible conditions inside the country's internal refugee camps.

The Independent reported on Thursday on the conditions in the Yarmouk refugee camp near Damascus, where 18,000 people live cut off from supplies and medical aid and people are reportedly eating grass as well as cat and dog meat.

The Refugee Council has warned that countries in the region "may wave people through and encourage them to find other routes to Europe" if the UNHCR resettlement programme is not implemented.

Syria's neighbours are coming under increasing difficulty from the number of refugees entering their territory. Close to a million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are scattered all across Lebanon. They are never far from sight; scruffy children begging at the capital's bars, polishing shoes or selling lottery tickets.

Thousands live in makeshift tents. Some have little more than a dirt floor to sleep on. A fifth of the population of Lebanon is now Syrian; proportionately, this is the equivalent of the entirety of Greece and Albania moving to the UK.

Maurice Wren, chief executive of the Refugee Council, said: "The situation in Syria is appreciably deteriorating, and that's why we think it has become increasingly perverse for Government to say the only answer is to provide more financial assistance.

"We've already seen an element of people voting with their feet because they don't like the conditions in the refugee camps [in Lebanon and Jordan]. And we've seen an increase in the number of Syrians coming through the well-established people-smuggling routes across the Mediterranean and through Turkey."

The UNHCR, European Commission and Refugee Council have all urged the British government to go further than donating aid and accept the temporary resettlement of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** inside the UK.

MPs from the three main parties have given their support to today's open letter, despite Mr Cameron and the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's resistance to the idea. The Government argues the UK has played its part by donating £600m to the UN's appeal, the country's biggest-ever response to a humanitarian crisis. Ministers insist this is the most effective way of helping the Syrian people.

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"When other allies like the US, France and Germany are admitting up to 10,000 refugees, why can't we do the same, or are we now so intimidated by Ukip that we have lost our humanity?"

Labour has led calls for Britain to accept between 400-500 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Yvette Cooper, the shadow Home Secretary, said: "France, Germany, Austria, Finland, Holland, Ireland and others have all agreed to do their bit. People will feel ashamed that our government is one of the only ones to refuse to help. It is immoral to stand aside and refuse to help when countries as far afield as Canada and Australia are willing to."

Many Conservative MPs are not convinced Britain should to open its doors to hundreds of refugees. But Brooks Newmark, Tory MP for Braintree, who has just returned from a three-day visit to camps on the Syrian-Turkish border, said he was "sympathetic to the idea" of accepting a limited number.

"I would support bringing to this country people who cannot get medical support - such as babies, small children, the severely injured," he said.

The UNHCR High Commissioner Antonio Guterres said the international community needed to assume "a true attitude of burden-sharing". He said: "It is unacceptable to see ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** drowning and dying in the Mediterranean sea or being pushed back from borders."

The letter

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This number may seem like a drop in the ocean, but it would transform the lives of each person resettled and help countries like Lebanon and Jordan who are already feeling the strain. In Lebanon, one of the most densely populated countries in the world, a fifth of the population are now ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

People in neighbouring states have shown incredible compassion and opened their homes to hundreds of thousands of people but we all have a shared responsibility. It would be catastrophic if the neighbouring countries closed their borders to the thousands of people who flee the conflict every day. Yet how can we call on Syria's neighbours to keep their borders open to refugees if we keep our own under lock and key?

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John Wilkes, CEO, Scottish Refugee Council

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Rob Williams, CEO, War Child

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'War crime': Yarmouk's aid blockade

The UN's top human-rights official says the repeated obstruction of convoys trying to resupply the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in Syria may amount to a war crime.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said numerous attempts by the UN and other organisations over the past four months to deliver aid to the 18,000 people in the camp have been thwarted.

The siege of Yarmouk, highlighted in Thursday's Independent, has led to more than 50 hunger-related deaths since October. The blockade by Syrian government forces has been in place for over a year, and civilians have borne the brunt of fighting between the government and rebels.

Ms Pillay said in a statement that badly needed food and medical aid is not reaching malnourished children, women and elderly people close to starvation because of "a quagmire between besieging Syrian government forces and affiliated militias surrounding the Yarmouk camp, as well as anti-government armed groups operating inside".

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Three people stabbed in riots amid 'chaotic' and unsanitary conditions in Greek camps; 'Anxiety and frustration is widespread,'the UNHCR said*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JF5-9PG1-F021-64J7-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 1, 2016 Friday 2:01 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 423 words

**Byline:** Jess Staufenberg

**Body**

Three people have been left with stab wounds after rioting broke out on a Greek islandamid worseningconditions for refugees.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees(UNHCR) has called for better safeguardsat refugee campsfollowing protests and riots in the"chaotic" and unsanitary environment.

People wereparticularly injured on the island of Chios, which is reportedly housing 600 more refugees than there is capacity for.

Read more

Turkey 'shooting dead' ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as they flee civil war

Germany drafts proposals to make refugees integrate

Britain and other wealthy countries 'failing ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

"We are very worried about the situation there. Rioting last night left three people with stab injuries," said the UNHCR on its website.

The humanitarian department also warned that unrest and worry was growing at the Moria facility on Lesvos.

The 2,300 people being kept there is above the camp's stated capacity of 2,000.

Many family members have been separated en route to Lesbos and Chiros and are scattered across Greece

"People are sleeping in the open, and food supply is insufficient.Anxiety and frustration is widespread," said the UNHCR.

"Making matters worse, many families have become separated, with family members now scattered across Greece - and presenting an additional worry should returns begin."

Earlier this month, EU leaders finalised a dealaimed at curbing refugee flows across Europeby agreeing that all migrants arriving in Greece across the Aegean Sea would be sent back to Turkey from midnight on Sunday.

One Syrian refugee from camps in Turkey is supposed to be settled for each irregular migrant returned to the country, in a move aimed to discourage asylum seekers from paying huge sums to smugglers for treacherous sea crossings.

Yet the deal has been criticised as contravening international human rights, while aid organisations have said the deal has sparked a "scramble" on the islands with little back-up by authorities.

The UNHCR said: "[We are]urging parties to the recent EU-Turkey agreement on refugees and migrants to ensure all safeguards are in place before any returns begin. This is in light of continued serious gaps in both countries.

"Across Greece, which has been compelled to host people because of closed borders elsewhere in Europe, numerous aspects of the systems for receiving and dealing with people who may need international protection are still either not working or absent."

**Load-Date:** April 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Amal Clooney and George Clooney meet with refugees to mark fifth anniversary of Syrian crisis; The human rights lawyer said her family were forced to flee war in Lebanon and expressed hope they one day may be able to return to a free Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J9R-SSK1-F021-6355-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 16, 2016 Wednesday 1:43 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 357 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

Amal Clooney has described how her family were forced to flee to Europe as their homeland was ravaged by civil war during a meeting with ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Amal and her husband George Clooney met with ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living in Berlin to mark the fifth anniversary of the Syrian conflict, which has displaced at least 4.8 million people internationally and six million internally. They have repeatedly urged Western governments to act in the crisis and met with the German Chancellor Angela Merkel in February to back her open door policy on refugees.

In a video of their meeting, which was released by the International Rescue Committee, they spoke to one refugee who said he was detained as a political prisoner and tortured with electricity. Others described how they had escaped shootings with their children and feared for their lives.

Amal, a leading human rights lawyer, recalled how her own family were forced to flee violence when she was three, leaving their home in Beirut, in Lebanon, behind.

"My own family is from Lebanon," she said. "They also ran away from a war and was lucky enough to be accepted by a European country in 1982 when the violence there was really bad. Many years later, my family is doing well. My father has returned to Beirut.

"I hope you will be able to go back to a safe and free Syria."

George also explained how his family were Irish descendants and criticised the US for "forgetting who we are".

"I'm of Irish descent and in America, 100 years ago, we were refugees, my family. Irish were treated terribly in America for a period of time and not accepted, and America learned to accept all of these ideas. It's what our country is, a country of immigrants."

Speaking directly about the Syrian crisis, he went on: "You forget that these are people who didn't just leave their country for no reason at all. These are people who left because a terrible tragedy.

'We always look around at the end of these tragedies and say if we knew, we would have done something and the reality is, of course we know.

'What is shocking to me is not that it happened but its continuing to happen for five years."

**Load-Date:** March 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*World news in brief*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PW0-RHD1-JCS0-D1NG-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

November 3, 2017 Friday

Second Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 30

**Length:** 1117 words

**Body**

Earth's ozone hole shrivels to smallest since 1988

The ozone hole over Antarctica shrank to its smallest peak since 1988, Nasa said yesterday. The huge hole in Earth's protective ozone layer reached its maximum this year in September, and this year Nasa said it was 7.6 million square miles wide. The hole size shrinks after mid-September. This year's maximum hole is more than twice as big as the United States, but it's 1.3 million square miles less than last year and 3.3 million square miles smaller than 2015.

Paul Newman, chief Earth scientist at Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Center, said stormy conditions in the upper atmosphere warmed the air and kept the chemicals chlorine and bromine from eating ozone. He said scientists haven't quite figured out why some years are stormier - and have smaller ozone holes - than others. "It's really small this year. That's a good thing," Newman said. He added that this year's drop is mostly natural but is on top of a trend of smaller steady improvements likely from the banning of ozone-eating chemicals in a 1987 international treaty. The ozone hole hit its highest in 2000 at 11.5 million square miles.

Top chains profit on back of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, claims watchdog

Some of Europe's biggest stores are failing to stem the abuse of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who work in the Turkish factories that supply their clothes, a business pressure group said today. The Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC) called on the worst offenders -from fashion icon Topshop to discounter Aldi - to better protect refugee workers who have fled war only to suffer workplace exploitation in their new home. Low wages, discrimination and poor conditions are common for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** working in Turkey's multi-billion dollar garment industry, where child labour is also a problem, said the BHRRC.

"Some high street fashion brands... have made progress in protecting workers, but too many like Aldi, Asda and Topshop are lagging way behind," said Phil Bloomer, executive director of the BHRRC. The British-based pressure group surveyed 37 major European brands with Turkish factories in their supply chains on the policies and practices undertaken to tackle the abuse of workers. Companies including supermarket chains Aldi and Asda and fashion retailer Arcadia - which owns the Topshop, Dorothy Perkins and Miss Selfridge brands - are not doing enough to stop the exploitation, the BHRRC survey found. ASOS, New Look, Next, SuperDry and Zara were the top-ranking brands in the survey; Asda and Arcadia came bottom. The charity said more brands had boosted efforts to clean up their supply chains compared to last year, with the top performers establishing plans to protect refugees, providing mechanisms to handle complaints, and initiating dialogue with workers' groups.

More than three million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - about half aged under 18 - have fled to Turkey to escape a war that erupted in 2011. About 650,000 are estimated to be working in Turkey, many in the garment industry, yet most lack work permits, leaving them at greater risk of abuse, the BHRRC said. A spokesman for Walmart, which owns Asda, said the company was exploring how to address the risks to vulnerable workers in its global supply chain, with a focus on ethical recruitment. Topshop declined to comment on the BHRRC survey, Aldi did not immediately respond to requests for comment, and Mexx and River Island could not be reached. Thomson Reuters Foundation

Republicans unveil tax plans to benefit America's middle class

The tax plan, revealed yesterday, promises savings next year of $1,182 for a typical household of four with a gross income of $59,000, leaving their tax bill at $400. What is clear is that many of the benefits for the middle class could dwindle over time, even while companies and wealthy individuals could enjoy lasting tax advantages. "We are focused on increasing paychecks in a major way," said Republican Kevin Brady, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. But the proposal's conflicting provisions and phase-outs of certain benefits suggest that taxes could rise for some middle-class earners over time. And for many, the income gains being touted by President Donald Trump are unlikely to materialise.

Some of these complications arise because under the budget instructions, the planned tax cuts can't increase the national debt by more than $1.5 trillion over the next decade. Anything above $1.5 trillion would force the Republicans to amend their plan to generate more revenue - a change that would likely prove difficult. Trump has frequently said that this would be the biggest tax cut in US history. But outside analysis shows that's not the case. The tax plan's primary beneficiaries would be wealthier Americans, who would enjoy lower tax rates despite the elimination of some breaks. "With the details they've presented to us so far, it looks like the tax cut benefits the wealthy and major corporations," said Martin Sullivan, chief economist at Tax Analysts and a former staff economist at the Treasury Department. "In fact, if you have a large family, given the facts that we have now, you would pay more in taxes." AP

Venezuela seeks to restructure foreign debt

President Nicolas Maduro announced yesterday that he will begin restructuring Venezuela's foreign debt, calling it the best way to get around US financial sanctions he said are crippling the oil-dependent nation. But in a sign he may be trying to avoid an ugly fight with Wall Street, Mr Maduro also ordered state-run oil company PDVSA to make one last $1.2bn bond payment in full before attempting to postpone future foreign payments. "I decree a refinancing and a restructuring of all external debt and all of Venezuela's payments," he said in a national broadcast address.

As Venezuela's economy has shrunk more than 35 per cent since 2014 - more than the US did during the Great Depression - President Maduro's socialist government has found itself forced to choose between paying its foreign creditors and helping a population ravaged by triple-digit inflation and widespread food and medicine shortages. For the most past, it's gone out of the way to prioritise paying its debt, finding new funds from ally Russia and proving critics wrong, who for months had been predicting a doomsday default. But financial sanctions announced in August by the Trump administration banning US investors from lending new funds to Venezuela has made it harder to maintain the delicate balance.

"We have had to face a real global financial persecution," Mr Maduro said, adding that Venezuela had paid $72bn in debt since he came to power in 2013, despite a precipitous fall in oil income for the Opec nation. AP

**Load-Date:** November 3, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Amal Clooney and George Clooney meet with refugees to mark fifth anniversary of Syrian crisis; The human rights lawyer said her father has since returned to Lebanon and expressed hope they one day may be able to return to a free Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J9R-SSK1-F021-6354-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 16, 2016 Wednesday 11:42 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 355 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

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Amal and her husband George Clooney met with ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living in Berlin to mark the fifth anniversary of the Syrian conflict, which has displaced at least 4.8 million people internationally and six million internally. They have repeatedly urged Governments to act in the crisis and met with the German Chancellor Angela Merkel in February to back her open door policy on refugees.

In a video of their meeting, which was released by the International Rescue Committee, they spoke to one refugee who said he was detained as a political prisoner and tortured with electricity. Others described how they had escaped shootings with their children and feared for their lives.

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"My own family is from Lebanon," she said. "They also ran away from a war and was lucky enough to be accepted by a European country in 1982 when the violence there was really bad. Many years later, my family is doing well. My father has returned to Beirut.

"I hope you will be able to go back to a safe and free Syria."

George also explained how his family were Irish descendants and criticised the US for "forgetting who we are".

"I'm of Irish descent and in America, 100 years ago, we were refugees, my family. Irish were treated terribly in America for a period of time and not accepted, and America learned to accept all of these ideas. It's what our country is, a country of immigrants."

Speaking directly about the Syrian crisis, he went on: "You forget that these are people who didn't just leave their country for no reason at all. These are people who left because a terrible tragedy.

'We always look around at the end of these tragedies and say if we knew, we would have done something and the reality is, of course we know.

'What is shocking to me is not that it happened but its continuing to happen for five years.'"

**Load-Date:** March 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump: I will look Syrian kids in the face and say 'go home'; The Republican said he has a 'bigger heart' than anyone else in theaudience over resettlement of refugee children*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J24-0TW1-JCJY-G2GJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 9, 2016 Tuesday 8:25 PM GMT

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**Section:** US ELECTIONS

**Length:** 369 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

Donald Trump usually opts for loud, rallying cries to bolster his audiences and make them believe that "America can be great again".

The Republican candidate, who is speculated to win at the New Hampshire primary on Tuesday evening, took a rather unorthodox approach however at a speech on ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the Granite State.

"I have a bigger heart than anybody in this room," he told his audience, shortly after saying he had "absolutely no problem" with "looking Syrian children in the face" and telling them to leave.

Read more

Donald Trump calls Ted Cruz a 'p\*\*\*y'

The question on refugees had been posed by freelance photographer Darren Ornitz who called out several Syrian families with young children who will be re-located in Greenwich, Connecticut, where Mr Trump has a residence,despite a "friendly and welcoming" reception from neighbours.

"I can look in their face and tell them they can't come here," Mr Trump responded to applause.

"Their parents should always stay with them, Iagree that we should keep them together and that's very important but we don't know where their parents come from, they have no documentation whatsoever.

"They may be Syrian, they may be ISIS, they may be ISIS-related," he said.

Mr Trump insisted he "had a heart" as he would ask the Gulf States to build "safe zones" in Syria to protect its civilians until the conflictis over.

He said German Chancellor Angela Merkel was "insane" to accept so many refugees.

Read more

This pub brawl analogy tells you a surprising amount about Syria

Angela Merkel appeals to Turkey for border controls

'Islamophobic' Guernsey will turn away ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

"We're taking thousands of people. If 2 per cent of those people are bad, the trouble is unbelievable," he said.

Anne Corcoran, Editor of anti-refugee blog called

Refugee Settlement Watch

, agreed with Mr Trump's views.

"Trump then went on to say, we don't know who they are. He said that the Gulf States should help build safe zones in Syria where refugees could be cared for until the conflict is over. He also said that most of them want to go home anyway. All of that is true."

**Load-Date:** February 9, 2016

**End of Document**



[*More than 1,000 Rabbis call on United States to welcome refugees; 'As Rabbis, we take seriously the biblical mandate to welcome the stranger'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHK-9PD1-F021-601X-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 3, 2015 Thursday 4:07 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 432 words

**Byline:** Serina Sandhu

**Body**

More than 1,000 Rabbis have called on elected officials in theUnited States to welcome refugees.

The Jewish leaders signed a letter, organisedby the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), and delivered one to each member of the Congress on Wednesday.

It read: "Since its founding, the United States has offered refuge and protection to the world's most vulnerable."

"Time and time again, those refugees were Jews. Whether they were fleeing pogroms in Tzarist Russia, the horrors of the Holocaust orpersecution in Soviet Russia or Iran, our relatives and friends found safety on these shores. We are therefore alarmed to see so many politicians declaring their opposition to welcoming refugees."

"Last month's heartbreaking attacks in Paris and Beirut are being cited as reasons to deny entry to people who are themselves victims of terror. And in those comments, we, as Jewish leaders, see one of the darker moments of our history repeating itself."

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin supports refugees. Who else can you find on the #1000Rabbis letter? [*https://t.co/oOBzEzTfkgpic.twitter.com/LWDy8ubkVE*](https://t.co/oOBzEzTfkgpic.twitter.com/LWDy8ubkVE)

- HIAS (@HIASrefugees) December 2, 2015

They urged "elected officials to support refugee resettlement".

"As Rabbis, we take seriously the biblical mandate to 'welcome the stranger'. We call on our elected officials to uphold the great legacy of a country that welcomes refugees."

Read more

John Oliver explains rigorous US vetting process for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Syrian Paris attacks survivor defends refugees following US House vote

Ben Carson likens ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to 'rabid dogs'

On November 19, the House of Representatives approved Republican-backedlegislation which sought to make the screening procedures for refugees from Syria and Iraq entering the US tougher.

The bill requires the secretary of homeland security, the FBI director and the director of national intelligence to all verifythat a refugee is not a threat to national security before admitting them into the country.

It also seeks to suspend White House plans to welcome10,000 refugees from Syria over the following year.It is unknown how the bill will fair in Senate.

Mark Hetfield, HIAS CEO and President, saidin a statement: "Some US politicians are threatening to close our doors to refugees. This is a false solution to a real problem, conflating terror with those who flee it. By fostering intolerance, such words and deeds play right into the hands of our enemies and waken our national character."

Additional reporting by Reuters

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee electrocuted touching railway cables as protests break out on Greek-Macedonian border; The man is the second refugee to be electrocuted in recent days*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHK-9PD1-F021-600C-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 3, 2015 Thursday 3:28 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 419 words

**Byline:** Alexandra Sims

**Body**

A refugee has been electrocuted to death at the Greek-Macedonian border during the second day of clashes between police and refugees in the area.

The man, believed to be from Morocco, died after touching a high-power wire among overhead railway cables while climbing on top of a train carriage.

The man's body, which was severely burnt, was lowered to the ground by other refugees and laid next to railway lines.

He was pronounced dead at the scene by an anonymous volunteer doctor.

Refugees flash the 'V for victory' sign during a demonstration as they block the Greek-Macedonian border

Getty

This is the second electrocution to occur in recent days. Last Saturday, a 24-year-old Moroccan man also suffered severe burns after touching an overhead railway cable.

The deaths came amid violent scuffles on the border, nearIdomen, Greece, following a decision by Macedonian authorities' to allow only refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria to cross.

Groups of people from other countries have set up makeshift roadblocks in retaliation.

Read more

Hungary to challenge European Commission over refugee quotas

Refugee who died on Channel Tunnel freight train 'pushed to his death'

Texas sues US government to keep out ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Germany 'made pact with Turkey for EU to take 500,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

On Wednesday, several hundred people blocked the crossing shouting: "If we don't cross, no one does!"; while on Thursday, empty barrels and pieces of wood and metal were used to create a 120 metre-long barrier along the border.

A 30-year-old Pakistani man, known only as Eli, who has been living in Greece for six years and wishes to go on to Germany said: "Why aren't they allowing us to cross?

"We're waiting until they open [the border]. Why is there this discrimination going on?"

Refugees throw stones during clashes as they wait to cross Greek-Macedonia border

Getty

Protests have involved people throwing rocks and at least two men have been injured from being hit,

Reuters

reports.

Greek riot police have been deployed in the area and have formed a barrier to protect refugees waiting on the Greek side of the border.

The Greek government says it is trying to persuade those stuck in camps at the border in near-freezing temperatures to come to Athens and apply for asylum in Greece.

Additional reporting by Associated Press

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*More than 250 refugees in 'mortal danger' after being forcibly returned to war-torn Syria from Lebanon; Amnesty International has slammed Lebanese authorities for 'stooping to a new low' by placing the refugees in danger*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HTG-S221-JCJY-G17V-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 9, 2016 Saturday 5:08 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 406 words

**Byline:** Ashley Cowburn

**Body**

More than 250 refugees who arrived at Beirut airport are in "mortal danger" after being forcibly returned to war-torn Syria by Lebanese authorities, Amnesty International hassaid.

The refugees, who arrived at Beirut's Rafic Hariri airport with the intention of travelling on to Turkey, were unable to board their connecting Turkish Airlines flights after new visa restrictions came into effect on Friday.

The new rules, imposed by Turkish authorities overnight, require Syrians arriving in the country by air and sea to have visas - for six years refugees have been allowed to enter visa-free for up to 90 days. Those who missed the deadline on Friday were forced to return to their Syrian homes, facing detention on arrival.

Read more

Lebanon releases Isis leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's ex-wife to jihadis

Aid alone can't help these child labourers in Lebanese refugee camps

Life through the eyes of a refugee: 500 children in Lebanon given

On Friday a group of 100 refugees were returned, then later in the day a further group of 150 who were stranded at the airport in Beirut were also flown to Syria, Amnesty told

The Independent

.

Speaking to AFP, Fadi al-Hassan, the head of Beirut international airport, said Syrian airline "Cham Wings is now returning 370 Syrian passengers to Damascus". He added: "A plane has already transported the first group, and we are waiting two more groups."

The decision by Lebanese authorities to deport the refugees back to Syria has been slammed by the leading human rights group Amnesty International which added that the country had "stooped to a shocking new low" and have placed the refugees "in mortal danger".

"This is an outrageous breach of Lebanon's international obligations to protect all refugees fleeing bloodshed and persecution in Syria. The Lebanese government must halt all further deportations of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** immediately," said Sherif Elsayed-Ali, head of refugees and migrants' rights at Amnesty International.

He added: "The new visa regulations in Turkey present yet another hurdle for Syrian desperate to seek sanctuary from the conflict and show what devastating consequences such restrictions can have for refugees."

Turkey and Lebanon host the highest numbers of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, with 2.2 million living in Turkish territories and just over one million in Lebanon.

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2016

**End of Document**



[*One in five Syrians is a refugee, UN confirms; It is officially the largest movement of people in any crisis for 25 years*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GD6-Y3M1-F021-61H2-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

July 9, 2015 Thursday 4:00 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 387 words

**Byline:** Caroline Mortimer

**Body**

One in five Syrians is now a refugee.

More than 4 million people have fled Syria since the start of the civil war with an additional 7.6m displaced within the country, the United Nations has confirmed.

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, said a recent wave of more people leaving Syria and an update to Turkish statistics confirmed it was the largest movement of people in any crisis for the past 25 years.

Turkey has the largest number of refugees with 45 per cent or 1.8m, 2.2m have been registered across Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon and there are a further 24,055 refugees in North Africa.

There have been a further 270,000 asylum applications by Syrians in Europe.

Antonio Guterres, the High Commissioner for Refugees, said: "This is the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation. It is a population that needs the support of the world but is instead living in dire conditions and sinking deeper into poverty.

"We cannot afford to let them and the communities hosting them slide further into desperation."

Read More:Half a million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to stop receiving food aid when the money runs out next monthDavid Cameron says Britain will accept just 'a few hundred' more ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** despite 4 million displaced by the warEveryone should read this heart-breaking letter from a Syrian refugee

The new figures shows the pace of people seeking to escape is increasing with the number spiking up by a third from 3m refugees just 10 months ago.

The UN says it appealed for $5.5bn in funding from donors to ensure it could continue to provide the humanitarian funds required but as on last month only a quarter of the money had arrived.

In pictures: Syrians flee to Turkey as US bombs fall and Kurds storm Isis strongholds

The brutal conflict between Isis and Kurdish forces has exacerbated the situation created by the civil war started in 2011 to depose dictator Bashar al-Assad.

Many migrants are employing increasingly desperate tactics to get to Western Europe where they will be able to claim asylum.

Last month, Italian authorities were forced to rescue 3,300 migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean on three different ships.

The UN estimated "almost 40,000" people had attempted to make the crossing between January and April this year.

Additional reporting by AP

**Load-Date:** July 9, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Amal Clooney calls on UK to take more Syrian refugees: 'There has been one Yazidi family that gained asylum in UK'; The human rights lawyer says she would be 'delighted' to work on a prosecution of the Syrian president Bashar Assad over crimes against humanity and war crimes*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KRV-9CJ1-F021-61B2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 20, 2016 Tuesday 2:14 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 447 words

**Byline:** Andrew Woodcock

**Body**

Human rights lawyer Amal Clooney has called on the UK to take in more refugees from the civil war in Syria.

Ms Clooney urged Prime Minister Theresa May to take a "leadership" role in pressing the United Nations for action against the Islamic State terror group - also known as Isis, Isil or Daesh - for its human rights violations against minority groups such as the Yazidis.

She also said she would be "delighted" to work on a prosecution of Syrian president Bashar Assad over crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Ms Clooney has announced she is mounting a legal case against Isis on behalf of 23-year-old Nadia Murad, who was used as a sex slave by Isis after being kidnapped along with thousands of fellow-Yazidis. Ms Clooney and her actor husband George have taken Nadia into their home after hearing of her escape from her ordeal.

Speaking to

Channel 4 News

alongside Nadia, Ms Clooney said: "I would hope that more could be taken in. There has been one Yazidi family that has been given asylum so far in the UK. You have had a million refugees accepted in Germany in the last year and 70,000 of those have been Yazidis. In every other country, it's been literally a handful, so I'm hoping that can improve.

"Actually one of the positive signs is that Prime Minister May when she was Home Secretary had instituted the idea that there should be the ability for private sponsorship. That is something that my husband and I are doing in the US, for example, with the International Rescue Committees. If the Government disappoints then at least they should empower you to make a difference."

Read more

Amal Clooney delivers damning speech to the UN over Isis 'genocide'

She added: "If there is a prosecution of President Assad I would be delighted to work on it. I think the UN has concluded that the Syrian government has committed crimes against humanity and war crimes. They're not the only ones - there are other actors who have committed the same crimes. But I think there's little doubt that that's what we're dealing with."

Ms Clooney was critical of the UN's failure to take stronger action against Isis: "There's obviously situations that have called for action by the Security Council where there has been inaction and so you can't say that the UN is fulfilling the role that it's supposed to be playing.

"There is no reason why the council should be paralysed. Isis has actually confessed to its crimes online. That's why when I spoke at the UN it was not my intention to speak in terms of congratulations, thank you for calling it genocide.

"The point is, what is the UN going to do about it? And I do hope that with the leadership of the UK this can actually be pushed forward."

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Amal Clooney calls on UK to take more Syrian refugees: 'There has been one Yazidi family that gained asylum in UK'; The human rights lawyer says she would be 'delighted' to work on a prosecution of the Syrian president Bashar Assad over war crimes and crimes against humanity*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KRV-9CJ1-F021-61B3-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Load-Date:** September 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron is finally changing his tune on providing a safe haven for victims of the war in Syria. What took him so long?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BBX-XYR1-F072-42N0-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 24, 2014 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 13

**Length:** 656 words

**Byline:** Andreas Whittam Smith

**Body**

At last, some movement from the Prime Minister on admitting a small number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to this country. He is just beginning to recognise the moral case. In what I think must have been a bit of a panic, he told the House of Commons on Wednesday: "If there are very difficult cases of people who don't belong in refugee camps who have either been disabled by these dreadful attacks, or are in very difficult circumstances, I am happy for us to look at that argument."

Leave aside for the moment that Nigel Farage, leader of the UK Independence Party, got to the same point three weeks ago, and study David Cameron's words. What is this category of people "who don't belong in refugees camps"? If you and your family are crossing the Syrian border in haste, the only place you can go to is a refugee camp. Does "disabled" mean injured, or forced to leave your home?

Evidently the Prime Minister was rattled, blurting out the first things that came into his mind. Compare what he said with Mr Farage's words on 29 December. "I think refugees are a very different thing to economic migration??? and I think, actually, there is a responsibility on all of us in the free West to try to help some of those people fleeing Syria, literally in fear of their lives." He added it was time for "a proper debate" about "the difference between a refugee - who fears for his or her life - or somebody moving simply for economic benefit".

The difference between the two statements is striking. Both men are marching towards the most important election battles of their lives, where their troops will be fighting each other hand to hand. These are the European Parliament elections due to be held on Thursday 22 May 2014 and the general election on 7 May 2015. Nonetheless, Mr Farage was prepared to voice sentiments that he must have known would surprise his followers and would probably disappoint many of them. And he put forward a reasoned argument for his position.

Mr Cameron, on the other hand, is a prisoner of strict party discipline. Everything must conform to the line - in this case, "immigration bad, keep the gates tightly locked". Moral arguments, whether they concern, say, the bedroom tax part of welfare reform or, in this case, desperate ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, are to be avoided at all costs. And when the Prime Minister does have to confront one, he starts talking gibberish to hide his confusion. Here, then, are the arguments for the more generous approach.

As the shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, told the House of Commons on Monday, the UN programme, which asks Western nations to accept 30,000 of the 2.3 million Syrians who have fled their country, "is for those whom the UN believes will find it hardest to survive in the camps in the region, such as abandoned children who have no other protection or support; torture victims, who may be suffering immense physical and mental distress; those who need urgent medical help; mothers of young children who have lost their husbands and relatives and are vulnerable; and those who have been abused in the camps. They are not asylum seekers. They cannot travel here or elsewhere to apply for asylum. They are already UN-certified refugees." Pretty clear.

The moral case for admitting, say, 500 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, is being put at its most effective in a play, Kindertransport Live, that is being performed at railway stations and theatres across the country to mark the 75th anniversary of the Kindertransport. This was a programme that gave 10,000 Jewish children - and only children - safe passage to the UK. The British government introduced it in November 1938 after nights of violence against Jews across Germany and Austria. The play recalls the journey of these child evacuees.

We all know the scale of the Holocaust, but Kindertransport made a difference and saved many thousands of lives. That is the point. The play continues its tour until 30 March.

[*a.whittamsmith@independent.co.uk*](mailto:a.whittamsmith@independent.co.uk)

**Load-Date:** January 23, 2014

**End of Document**



[*100 people feared dead in Mediterranean taking toll for 2016 to 5,000 - the highest ever; Two dinghies carrying hundreds of refugees sink*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MFX-JGG1-JCJY-G170-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 23, 2016 Friday 6:37 PM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 458 words

**Byline:** Ben Kentish

**Body**

100 refugees and migrants are feared to have drowned off the coast of Italy after two boats sunk, taking the number of migrants who have died in the Mediterranean this year above 5,000 - the highest annual total yet.

The drownings reportedly occurred after two rubber dinghies collapsed on Thursday, tipping hundreds of refugees into the sea. Both vessels are believed to have been full of people: the first was carrying up to 140 and the second around 80, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Only 143 of the apparent260 refugees andmigrants were rescued and survived.

Read more

Israel is taking in injured ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from Aleppo

Elsewhere on the same day, the Italian coastguard rescued 175 people and recovered eight bodies over a total of four operations in the central Mediterraneannear Sicily.

It means more refugees have drowned in the Mediterranean trying to reach Europe this year than ever before.

UNHCR spokesman William Spindler said: "This situation highlights the urgent need for States to increase pathways for admission of refugees, such as resettlement, private sponsorship, family reunification and student scholarship schemes, among others, so they do not have to resort to dangerous journeys and the use of smugglers.

"The causes for the alarming increase in deaths this year are multiple but appear to be related to the declining quality of the vessels used by people smugglers, the vagaries of the weather and the tactics used by smugglers to avoid detection by the authorities. These include sending large numbers of embarkations simultaneously, which makes the work of rescuers more difficult."

An average of 14 people have died every day this year in the Mediterranean attempting to reach Europe from North Africa or the Middle East.

People smugglers continue to cram desperate migrants into boats heading to Europe, despite dangerous weather conditions and the huge number of people that have already died trying to make the crossing.

Read more

The single mother who opened her home to refugees

Meet the man who's saved 200 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Refugee children in France have started turning back to Calais

Hundreds of child refugees in Calais 'have UK asylum claims rejected'

Those rescued from boats off Europe's shores are taken to processing and detention centres in Italy and Greece where their applications for asylum are processed. The centres are increasingly crowded and charities have warned of dire conditions.

Campaigners have claimed EU countries' strict immigration policies arecontributing to the deaths and called on governments to allow more refugees into their nations.

The death toll in 2016 is a significant rise on last year, when 3,771 casualties were recorded in the Mediterranean.

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*100 people feared dead in Mediterranean taking toll for 2016 to 5,000 - the highest ever; Two dinghys carrying hundreds of refugees sink*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MFX-JGG1-JCJY-G16Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Load-Date:** December 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee who was master tailor in Syria comes to rescue of Canadian bride who suffered last minute dress malfunction; It turned out the bride's neighbour was hosting a Syrian refugee family, one of whom had been a tailor for 28 years*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KTT-2HX1-F021-64F6-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 29, 2016 Thursday 8:21 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 355 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

When the zip broke on Jo Du's wedding dress, it was just hours before the ceremony and no one knew a tailor that was available on a Sunday.

The wedding photogtapher, Lindsay Coulter, suggested a bridesmaid head over to the neighbour's house and ask for a pair of pliers.

What nobody had anticipated was that the neighbour in Guelph, Ontario, was hosting a Syrian refugee family, one of whom had worked as a master tailor for 28 years in Aleppo.

Read more

6-year-old offers place in his family to Syrian refugee boy

Ibrahim Halil Dudu, his son and the neighbour, David Hobson, came round with a sewing kit.

Ms Coulter wrote about the "incredible situation"on her Facebook page and shared photos of Mr Dudu fixing the bride'sdress.

The Syrian family had moved to Canada just four days prior to the wedding, she said, and had been using Google Translate to communicate.

Mr Dudu's son was reportedly curious, looking around at the bridal party, while his dad sewedthe final stitches on Ms Du's dress.

The groom, Earl Lee, told CTV: "We're so lucky that happened to us."

Through a translator, Mr Dudu said: "I was so excited and so happy. I like to help Canadian people from my heart."

"Every weekend I take photos of people on the happiest days of their lives, and today one man who has seen some of the worst things our world has to offer came to the rescue,"she wrote.

Read more

Amal Clooney calls on UK to take more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***: 'There has been one Yazidi family that gained asylum in UK'

Donald Trump Jr provokes outrage after comparing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** 'to Skittles that could kill you'

Republicans use spending bill deadline to try and limit Syrian refugee resettlement in the US

Ms Coulter added that she was "proud"to live in Canada, which has welcomed refugees from Syria and other countries.

"I'm in awe of the families who have welcomed these strangers in to their homes and lives, and I'm inspired by the resilience of the Syrian people.

"We are truly blessed,"she wrote.

Ms Coulter set up a GoFundMe page to encourage donations to the tailor's family and other Syrian refugee families who are placed under private sponsorship in Canada.

**Load-Date:** September 29, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Europe looks to charm Turkey's Erdogan in bid to staunch flow across borders; The move comes despite recent EU admonishments for the Turkish leader overhis authoritarianism and recent attacks on Kurdish positions*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H30-BWV1-JCJY-G1MN-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 5, 2015 Monday 12:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 729 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz

**Body**

English European Union leaders will attempt to charm Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan today at a Brussels summit, as they seek his help to staunch the flow of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to Europe.

With Turkey currently hosting nearly two million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, the EU wants Erdogan to prevent them heading west, exacerbating a migration crisis that is already testing the limits of European solidarity.

However, the EU is wary of embracing Erdogan too tightly, having already admonished him for his authoritarianism and his recent attacks on Kurdish positions during the allied campaign against Isis.

The visit comes at a critical time for Erdogan, ahead of the 1 November Turkish elections and the November G20 Summit in the southern Turkish city of Antalya.

The summit will gather Erdogan with the presidents of the three main EU bodies: the European Council's Donald Tusk, the European Commission's Jean-Claude Juncker, and the European Parliament's Martin Schulz.

They will ask him to do more to stop the boats crossing the narrow sea lanes between Turkey's Aegean coast and the Greek islands where thousands of refugees pass daily, notably through tougher action against the people smugglers roaming freely around Turkey. It also wants to set up "hotspots" to process asylum seekers on Turkish soil.

Read more

Meeting the desperate and the hopeful on a 1,300-mile refugee trail

Four problems with Europe's refugee quota

Belgians agree to take in refugees - as riots persist in Germany

Erdogan has been dismissive of the recent EU convulsions over the influx of refugees, pointing out that the estimated 500,000 who have arrived in Europe so far this year pales in comparison with two million Syrians he is hosting, of whom around 15 per cent are in state-run camps. Last month he accused the EU of turning the Mediterranean into a "cemetery". He has since toned down his rhetoric: he told parliament last week that he wanted to open a "new page", and that Ankara still wanted to join the EU despite the hostility from key European governments.

In exchange for keeping the refugees on Turkish soil, the EU is offering some (EURO)1 billion in aid to improve the conditions in the Turkish refugee camps, so people have less incentive to leave. But the Turkish government has indicated it is not interested in the money, pointing out that it has already spent nearly (EURO)7 billion looking after ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Instead, Erdogan is seeking visa-free travel for Turks in the EU, and designation as a "safe country of origin" for any refugees being returned - in spite of European concerns that the growing campaign against Kurds makes Turkey less safe for some.

Even more controversial are Turkey's proposals for a safe zone to be set up along the border in northern Syria where Isis fighters would be cleared and refugees could be resettled. EU governments suspect this is less about resolving a humanitarian crisis and more about crushing the Kurds, who are also battling Isis. There is already widespread dismay in Europe that since joining the alliance against Isis in July, Turkey has focused its attention instead on bombing Kurdish positions.

The issue is further complicated by Russia's direct entry into the Syrian theatre last week. Like Turkey, Russia seems to be largely ignoring Isis - Moscow's main targets are the opponents of its ally, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad - while potentially making the region even more volatile.

Erdogan, who arrives in Brussels tonight, has packed two-day official schedule that includes meeting Belgium's King Philippe and ends with the opening of the Europalia International Arts Festival devoted to Turkey at the Brussels Centre for Fine Arts.

However, his plan to use an 18,000-capacity arena for a political rally for Belgian-Turks has been scrapped after the mayor of Brussels denied him permission. Ethnic Turks represent a powerful constituency for Erdogan: around 200,000 currently live in Belgium, three-quarters of whom now have Belgian nationality.

The Union of European Turkish Democrats, the European branch of Erdogan's AKP party, tried to hire the hall on the former World Expo site in the Heysel district. But Brussels Mayor Yvan Mayeur blocked the move, saying the arena was for concerts and shows only.

**Load-Date:** October 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Cameron calls for aid spending closer to Syrian borders on whistle-stop tour; Choreographed mission to Lebanon's refugees is aimed at British public opinion, writes OLIVER WRIGHT in Zaatari*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXN-9G01-JCS0-D1SJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 15, 2015 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 12

**Length:** 674 words

**Byline:** OLIVER WRIGHT

**Body**

In a brightly coloured makeshift classroom David Cameron is chatting to a dozen young Syrian boys whose lesson he has just "dropped in" on. Camera crews, photographers and journalists push and shuffle behind as the Prime Minister makes small talk through an interpreter.

"What could improve your life here," he asks. "A swimming pool," replies one young boy. "Grass to play on," answers another.

"What do you want to do when you grow up?"

"Be a teacher," replies one. "Well at least you don't want to be a pop star or a footballer," Mr Cameron quips.

The class seems suspiciously small for a refugee camp of 80,000 - where over half are under 18. The "teacher" seems to speak suspiciously good English as she translates what the boys are saying to the Prime Minister.

In fact she wasn't the real teacher at all - the real teacher came back after Mr Cameron had left. Welcome to refugee camp - and refugee crisis - by photo-opportunity. And a whistle-stop one at that.

Covering Lebanon and Jordan in less than six hours each, Mr Cameron managed to cram in visits to three refugee families, a school, and the Prime Minister of Lebanon and King of Jordan, along with several stops in the region's largest refugee camp. In between there were at least four changes of clothing - suit and tie for the diplomatic chat, then into dark chinos and short-sleeve shirts for the camps.

Elias Bou Saab, Lebanon's Education Minister, claimed that Isis supporters could be among the refugees going to Europe. He had no hard evidence but said his "gut feeling" was that about 2 per cent could be "radicals", adding that Lebanese soldiers had been kidnapped by people masquerading as refugees in camps there.

Every moment of Mr Cameron's trip was meticulously choreographed - both for security reasons and for the message the Prime Minister wanted to project back home.

It was a message hammered home in every media interview: Britain is "pulling its weight" by its international aid commitment - even if it is not prepared to share the burden of the European refugee crisis.To the aid sceptics there was a subtly different message: This money is being spent to stop more refugees coming to Britain and Europe - so aid spending is in the national interest.

There was also a message to other European leaders: there was a "moral imperative" to help refugees not just in Europe but those closer to Syria. The UK spends 10 times more than France on such aid.

This was not Mr Cameron's first trip to the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan. When he last visited it three years ago it was home to 23,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Today it has more than tripled in size and accommodates 80,000 men, women and children - crammed into an area that covers just over one square mile.

Yesterday Mr Cameron announced that Britain would give another £6m to help Jordan cope with the refugee influx, out of a total extra £100m for the region.

To put that figure in context: £6m is just £9.20 for each of the 629,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the country. Jordan in contrast is predicted to have spent £2.7bn coping with the refugee crisis, compared to the £220m given in total by Britain in the same period.

In Zaatari one in five of the refugees live in garages, chicken houses and tents and the situation is deteriorating. The World Food Programme has halved its assistance to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** because of a $341m (£221m) funding shortfall.

When Mr Cameron visited in 2012 he said he had been deeply affected by what he had seen. Asked yesterday how he felt three years on, he replied: "It's very depressing the scale of the challenge we're facing.

"But it makes me think how right Britain was in supporting these camps and these refugees. This is not some recent thing we have discovered."

And he's right about that. Outside the gated part of the camp which contained the school room, a much larger group of children and teenagers hung around absorbing the strange scene.

One slightly older girl understood a bit of English. "What's it like here," we asked? She scrunched up her face and put her hands in front of it.

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Charities call for looser asylum rules as UK receives just 1 in 30 of total EU asylum claims; Britain accounts for one eighth of EU population but received just 3.5 per cent of EU's asylum claims, while Germany received 38 per cent*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GYC-HKC1-F021-618N-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 18, 2015 Friday 5:31 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 724 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

Britain received just one in thirty of all asylum claims made across the European Union in the second quarter of this year, new figures have revealed, despite the UK accounting for an eighth of the EU's population.

It has led humanitarian groups to call on the Government to loosen its strict asylum application and visa rules at the same time as rethinking its refusal to share responsibility for taking in the hundreds of thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who have fled to Europe.

David Cameron has so far resisted pressure to sign up to the EU-wide quota system to resettle 160,000 refugees, opting instead to run its own relocation programme and offering places to just 20,000 people in Syrian refugee camps.

None of those who have fled to Europe will be offered sanctuary in Britain because ministers are concerned it will persuade even more refugees to make the perilous journey across the Mediterranean.

Refugees can only claim asylum once they reach the UK border and not only is Britain geographically difficult to reach but the Refugee Council charity says the Government also makes it as "difficult as possible for people to get here" if it suspects they will claim asylum on arrival.

As The Independent revealed earlier this month, the number of Syrians who have successfully applied for UK visas has fallen by more than 40 per cent since the start of the Syrian civil war because of fears they may claim asylum.

Immigration lawyer Greg  Ó Ceallaigh, a barrister at Garden Court Chambers, said this decline in the rate of successful applications was because entry clearance officers are "convinced that [Syrians] are going to claim asylum".

A total of 7,470 people made their first asylum application to the UK between April and June this year - 3.5 per cent of the total 213,200 asylum claims made across the 28-state bloc.

Nearly four out of ten (38 per cent) of all asylum applications were made to Germany, with Hungary receiving 15 per cent and Australia 8 per cent of total claims in the three months to June.

Read more: Thousands of Syrians have UK visa requests rejected by Home Office20 children among 200 Syrians deported by the UK since start of warEuropean leaders preparing EU-wide protection force to deal with unfolding humanitarian catastropheCivil war prompts tenfold rise in Syrians claiming asylum in UK

Lisa Doyle, from the Refugee Council, said the figures "clearly demonstrate Britain must do more" to help the refugees arriving in Europe.

"As it's virtually impossible for refugees to reach Britain in order to claim asylum, it's vital the British Government steps forward and proactively offers to help share responsibility for protecting the vulnerable men, women and children arriving on Europe's shores.

"Lives depend on European countries standing alongside each other in solidarity."

Hungary has come under intense pressure in recent months after a huge influx of refugees from the Middle East and the right-wing government has constructed a fence along its border to stop more refugees entering the country.

It received the highest rate of asylum applications as a ratio of its population, with 3,317 asylum claims per million Hungarian citizens.

Britain ranked 17th on this measure having received 115 applicants for every million residents.

Britain is preparing to welcome the first group of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the coming days under the Government's expanded resettlement programme to take in up to 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over the next five years.

It came after pressure to admit more people from the war-ravaged country following the publication of photographs of three-year-old Aylan Kurdi, who drowned with his mother and brother trying to cross from Turkey to Greece by boat.

Responding to the escalating crisis in Europe, the chair of Labour's refugee taskforce Yvette Cooper said: "Britain's approach of only planning to take refugees from the camps in Syria isn't working.

"It ignores the crisis also happening in Europe itself and means Britain has no leverage to get other countries to sign up to help. Countries don't need to sign up to a system of quotas decided by the EU, but they do all need to make their own offer of how many refugees they can help.

"David Cameron has to show some real leadership in Europe on this, not just stand on the sidelines. It is too serious for us to turn our backs."

**Load-Date:** September 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Senior British politicians tell David Cameron: When dead children are being washed up on beaches - it's time to act; 'These pictures are beyond horrific. They are the wake-up call David Cameron needs,' Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron tells The Independent*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GTY-VB41-JCJY-G1JG-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 3, 2015 Thursday 7:32 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 688 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

It is an image that shows beyond any doubt that Europe's leaders are failing to deal with the refugee crisis on their doorstep.

And now David Cameron has been told that the picture of a dead Syrian refugee boy washed up on a Turkish beach after he and his family tried to flee their war-torn country must act as a wake-up call to start accepting more than just a few hundred refugees from the country.

"Enough is enough," Tim Farron, the Liberal Democrat leader told The Independent. "These pictures are beyond horrific. They are the wake-up call David Cameron needs," he added.

The Independent has taken the decision to publish the image, which some may find offensive, but the top of this article because among the often glib words about the "ongoing migrant crisis", it is all too easy to forget the reality of the desperate situation facing many refugees.

He was joined by Yvette Cooper, who said that when children's bodies are being washed up on beaches, the Government must know it is time to act.

Speaking to The Independent, she said: "When mothers are desperately trying to stop their babies from drowning when their boat has capsized, when people are being left to suffocate in the backs of lorries by evil gangs of traffickers and when children's bodies are being washed to shore, Britain needs to act."

"It is heartbreaking what is happening on our continent. We cannot keep turning our backs on this. We can - and must - do more."

Ms Cooper wants each town to offer refuge to 10 families, which she says would give 10,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** sanctuary in the UK. "Let's not look back with shame at our inaction," Ms Cooper says in yet another appeal for Mr Cameron to act.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

But the Prime Minister still refuses to change his Government's policy of taking in more than just a few hundred refugees.

"I don't think there is an answer that can be achieved simply by taking more and more refugees," he said today.

This was further proof, according to Mr Farron, of the UK Government's "disengaged, cold and irrelevant" response to the refugee crisis that has overflown onto Europe's doorstep.

"Britain has always been there for people in crisis," he said. "It is a badge of pride for our country. We must step up again, work with our neighbours and do what we can to help."

The young boy in the image, who has yet to be named, is just one of nearly 3,000 refugees who have drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean this year and one of four million Syrians who have fled their country since the civil war broke out four years ago.

The boy, pictured below being carried by the official, is one of 11 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** feared dead after they drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean on two boats bound for the Greek island of Kos.

Read more: Refugee crisis: 5 practical ways you can helpIf these images don't change Europe's attitudes, what will?The two graphs that reveal the UK's abysmal recordNumber of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** taken in would fit on a Tube train

Pressure has grown on Mr Cameron ever since he described migrants crossing the Mediterranean as a "swarm" earlier in the summer.

"I accept that, because you have got a swarm of people coming across the Mediterranean, seeking a better life, wanting to come to Britain because Britain has got jobs, it's got a growing economy, it's an incredible place to live," he said.

Acting Labour leader Harriet Harman hit out at his choice of words, saying "he should remember he is talking about people and not insects" and described his use of "divisive" language as a "worrying turn".

Responding to the publication of pictures of the young Syrian boy today, a government spokesman insisted the UK was not standing idly by and was continuing to lead the international response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

"These photos are clearly shocking," the spokesman said. "This is why we continue to be at the forefront of the international response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria - including as the second biggest bilateral donor of humanitarian aid, having already pledged £900m."

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*German school children who attacked refugee classmates 'being investigated by police'; 'We are unwilling to helplessly watch as a new generation of dim young nationalists grow up, just because their parents may tolerate or even encourage it'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HK8-RN21-F021-624G-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 11, 2015 Friday 2:23 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 431 words

**Byline:** Hardeep Matharu

**Body**

A group of German school children are being investigated by police for seriously injuring their refugee classmates in a series of violent "far right" confrontations, it has been reported.

According to the German new site

The Local

, tensions have been running high at a school near Leipzig for the last month since refugee children learning 'German as a third language' joined their classes.

A group of 13- and 14-year-old German children at the school attacked the new arrivals by spitting on them, throwing stones, shoving and crushing them, and slamming doors shut in their faces, according to police.

They have said the youngest victim of the attacks was a nine-year-old girl who suffered a splintered bone in her arm which had to be put into a cast, and that a 14-year-old refugee child also had to be treated by a doctor after being crushed.

Police are investigating the attackers on suspicion of serious bodily harm, according to the news site.

"School is no place where a possible far-right political atmosphere is the norm," said Saxony Policy.

"The Saxon education authority, school leadership and police headquarters in Leipzig are unwilling to helplessly watch as a new generation of dim young nationalists grow up, just because their parents may tolerate or even encourage it."

The school is considering ways to make the classes safer for the refugee children.

The incidentsareone of a number of protests and confrontations that have taken place across Germany in recent months as increasing numbers of asylum seekers - many of them ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - settle in the country.

Read more

More than 200 refugee homes burned or attacked in Germany

Germany 'made pact with Turkey for EU to take 500,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

Could open-door refugee policy bring about Merkel's downfall?

More than a million asylum seekers are on course to be living in Germany by the end of year, with the current figure at 964,574 - less than one per cent of the nation's total population.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel - this week named as

TIME

magazine's 'person of the year' - has insisted that it is the country's "damned duty" to help refugees, but many believe the warm spirit embodied in the welcome parties held by ordinary Germans to welcome Syrians in the summer has faded.

"We cannot go on continually taking in more than a million refugees each year and trying to integrate them," the chancellor's Social Democrat coalition partners Sigmar Gabriel and Frank-Walter Steinmeie have said.

**Load-Date:** December 11, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Government U-turn over Syria: 500 of most vulnerable refugees to be let into Britain; Nick Clegg announces decision after campaign by The Independent*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BD2-RTH1-J9YR-G0XW-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 29, 2014 Wednesday 11:43 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 973 words

**Byline:** Andrew Grice, Jamie Merrill

**Body**

About 500 of the most vulnerable ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** will be allowed to enter Britain, the Government has announced as it completed its U-turn on the issue.

Nick Clegg, who has been pressing David Cameron for weeks to admit hundreds of refugees, said the UK would open its doors to women and girls who had experienced or were at risk from sexual violence, the elderly, the disabled and survivors of torture.

Mr Cameron overruled objections from Theresa May, the Home Secretary, who wants to do everything to ensure the Conservatives meet their target to reduce net migration below 100,000 by next year's general election. "He realised that, although we are the good guys and the second largest donor of humanitarian aid to Syria in the world, we were in danger of looking like the villains," said one Government insider.

Maurice Wren, chief executive of the Refugee Council, which co-ordinated two open letters to Mr Cameron published in The Independent, said: "This isn't about party politics, it's about compassion and the Refugee Council is delighted the UK Government looks set to deploy a full spectrum of solutions in addressing the greatest refugee crisis of our time."

He added that The Independent deserved "the highest praise" for its sustained coverage of the issue.

Britain will not join the UNHRC programme to resettle 30,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, which Mrs May warned would set a precedent, so it will not fix a formal quota. But the UNHRC has backed the Government's move and will work closely with it to identify refugees in urgent need of help. "We are not focused on a target, we're focused on helping the most vulnerable," said a Whitehall source. About 500 Syrians are expected to come to the UK over the next year.

Mr Clegg said: "The Coalition Government wants to play our part in helping to alleviate the immense suffering in Syria.

"We are one of the most open-hearted countries in the world and I believe we have a moral responsibility to help. Sadly we cannot provide safety for everyone who needs it, but we can reach out to some of those who need it most."

The Deputy Prime Minister's announcement takes the heat out of a Commons debate on the issue today called by Labour. The Government's previous hard line had raised the prospect of an embarrassing defeat amid all-party criticism of its stance.

Yvette Cooper, the shadow Home Secretary, who led the demands for a U-turn, said: "Compassion and common sense have prevailed over government and ministerial resistance."

She added: "Given the considerable flexibility in the UN programme for countries to set their own priorities, numbers and security checks, the benefits of not running parallel bureaucracy and the value of being able to encourage other countries to follow suit, the Government would be best to sign up with the UN."

She said ministers now need to confirm that the 500 would not be at the expense of the 750 refugees the UK accepts every year. She called for refugees to be exempt from the Tories' migration target

Syamend Farhan, a Syrian refugee living in Manchester, welcomed the Government's move, saying: "I am very happy to hear that because I lived what they are living... The first thing they are going to escape is hunger, and the risk of dying. Getting a passport in Syria at the moment is impossible. People aren't able even to move to Lebanon, Turkey or Jordan. I was lucky, I already had a passport."

The 21-year-old student added that even taking a few "from the mass of those suffering means something". He said: "If other countries do the same then little by little the suffering will be reduced".

Timetable of a U-turn

December 26: The Independent reveals that David Cameron is under pressure to reverse the Government's rejection of UNHCR request to allow some ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to come to Britain. Labour calls for 400-500  Syrians to be allowed in.

January 6: Nick Clegg defends the Government's policy but says that more than 1,000 Syrians have been allowed entry as asylum-seekers in past year. Refugee groups point out that most of the 2.4m people in camps in neighbouring countries have no prospect of reaching Britain to claim asylum.

January 18: Letter signed by 25 aid agencies and refugee groups, published in The Independent, urges the Government to join 18 western countries backing the UNHCR's resettlement programme. They ask: " How can we call on Syria's neighbours to keep their borders open to refugees if we keep our own under lock and key?"

January 20: Labour tables emergency Commons question. Mark Harper, Immigration Minister, comes under fire from Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour MPs after saying that joining UNHCR scheme would be  a "token" gesture.

January 22: David Cameron softens the Government's line when Ed Miliband raises the issue at Prime Minister's Questions. The PM says he is ready to see some of the most vulnerable refugees come to UK. To keep up the pressure, Labour announces Commons debate and vote a week later.

January 23: The Independent reveals that Nick Clegg has been pushing behind the scenes for weeks for the Government to admit hundreds of Syrians, and is now "hopeful" of persuading the Conservatives.

January 24: Fifty-five peers from all parties call for Britain to sign up to the UN programme. In a letter published in The Independent, they say the scheme is a "moral imperative" and the only "durable solution".

January 26: William Hague, the Foreign Secretary, tells the BBC that Theresa May, the Home Secretary, is preparing to announce plans to help "particularly vulnerable" refugees.

January 27: Mrs May confirms that an announcement will be made before Wednesday's Commons debate called by Labour.

January 28: Nick Clegg confirms that hundreds of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** will be allowed in, including women and girls at risk of sexual violence; the elderly; the disabled and survivors of torture.

**Load-Date:** January 29, 2014

**End of Document**



[*What life is actually like for people living in Syria right now; Kurdish fighters have taken more than 200 villages and towns from Isis in three weeks, under the cover of coalition air strikes*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHJ-TMV1-F021-6347-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 3, 2015 Thursday 11:58 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 438 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

The war in Syria looks very different from the ground, as photographs from the Kurdish frontline show the reality of the warBritish MPs have decided to join.

YPG fighters just 30 miles from Raqqa, the self-declared capital of Isis, prevented around a dozenmilitants from attacking their furthest outpost.

An unexploded suicide vest lies on the ground next to the bodies of the Isis fighters, who mounted an early morning attack against the town of Ain Issa using fog as cover.

Isis fighters killed on a Kurdish outpost

A discarded suicide vest

ITV video of fight against IS

They were discovered in time and killed.Two were found to be wearing suicide vests and most appeared to be teenagers.

Pictures taken byITV's senior international correspondent John Irvineshow the ruins of an Isis base hit by air strikes.An abandoned Sharia Court can also be seen.

Air strikes damage on Isis base near Mailabia

An abandoned Sharia Court building in Al Hawl

During an offensive launched just before the Paris attacks, the YPG have taken more than 200 villages and towns from Isis in three weeks, under the cover of coalition air strikes.

Read more

Bombing campaign in Syria set to last for years, Michael Fallon says

RAF jets complete first bombing of Isis targets inside Syria

Watch Hilary Benn's impassioned speech on Syria air strikes

MPs vote overwhelmingly in favour of bombing Isis in Syria

Unlike the Kurds, who have been the main group engaged in battle with Isis in Iraq and Syria, there will be no British "boots on the ground".

Instead, the UK will take part in air strikestaking off from RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus.Four RAF Tornado jets launched theirfirst air strikes in Syria, targeting six targets related to an oil field under Isis control in the east of the country.

Refugees from Syria try to organise the queue as they wait to cross into Croatia through the Serbian border on 25 September, 2015 in Bapska, Croatia

A Syrian Kurdish woman crosses the border between Syria and Turkey at the southeastern town of Suruc in Sanliurfa province on 23 September, 2014

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** arrive on the shores of Lesvos island in Greece in an inflatable boat from Turkey on 23 August, 2015

In July, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported the number of refugees fleeing Syriahad surged to over four million people.

The number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who had been resettled in Britain by September, just 216, could fit on a single London Underground train - with plenty of seats to spare.

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Asylum seekers pretending to be Syrian in UK applications risking prosecution; Refugees from other countries have admitted lying about their nationality in the home of being granted asylum*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HC3-38X1-F021-60GB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 12, 2015 Thursday 11:00 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 444 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Asylum seekers are posing as Syrians in the hope it will secure them a place in the UK but are unwittingly risking criminal prosecution.

The Independent

met Iraqi and Afghan migrants arriving in Lesbos who said they knew people attempting the deception, believing it would lead to better treatment and an increased chance of being granted the right to stay in Europe.

A Syrian refugee

told

Sky News

the practice was being continued by some fellow asylum seekers he met at a hostel in Croydon.

Video: Calais refugees share their stories

Mohammed Manla-Ali, who has applied to stay in the UK after fleeing war-torn Aleppo, said: "Lots of people want to be Syrian. Some people say they are Syrian. They take the place for Syrians which is not good."

Another man admitted changing his stated nationality depending where he was on his journey to the UK, saying he told English authorities he was Iranian but added: "In Greece, I say I am from Syria."

Read more

EU to offer (EURO)1.8bn to Africa for help with migrant and refugee crisis

Germany imposes restrictions on ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in surprise U-turn

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

Discussion about the refugee crisis has been dominated by the Syrian civil war but high proportions of asylum seekers are also coming from neighbouring Iraq, where Isis has seized swathes of territory and Afghanistan, where the war against the Taliban continues after the withdrawal of British and American forces.

Many of those arriving across the Central Mediterranean also come from Eritrea, where the government has been accused of killing, detaining, kidnapping and conscripting citizens, and Nigeria as Boko Haram continues its bloody campaign for an Islamist caliphate.

Germany's now-reversed easing of asylum regulations for Syrians and pledges by the UK and other nations to take refugees specifically from that country is driving even migrants with legitimate claims to lie about their nationality.

But Home Office safeguards include language tests, background checks and extensive interviews by specialists.

"The UK has a proud history of granting asylum to those who genuinely need it and every case is carefully considered on its individual merits and in line with the Immigration Rules," a spokesperson told

The Independent

.

"People who seek to obtain leave by deception are committing an offence and may be subject to prosecution."

David Cameron committed to resettling 20,000 "genuine" Syrian refuges from UN camps in Syria and neighbouring countries over the next five years.

**Load-Date:** November 12, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Northern Refugee Centre set to close due to lack of funding; The charity has helped refugees in Yorkshire for over three decades*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HM4-YW81-F021-645X-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 15, 2015 Tuesday 4:30 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 431 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

A charity that has helped refugees for over three decades is to close because of a lack of funding, it has announced.

The Northern Refugee Centre in Yorkshire, which provides support, advice and advocacy for refugees in the county, will shut down in January.

The closure comes despite an increase in the number of refugees the UK is set to take on account of the dramatic refugee crisis going on at Europe's frontiers.

Read more

The Government has quietly cut money to house and educate orphan child refugees living here

The Government's Syrian refugee resettlement programme is due to bring families from that war zone to the area covered by the charity's services this week.

The Government is providing a significant amount of aid to refugees living in camps in the Middle East - around £1.1bn - but the response domestically has been criticised.

Over the summer the Government quietly cut payments to house, educate and look after orphaned and separated child refugees living in Britain.

The leaders of affected councils described those changes to the little-known UASC payment as "completely unacceptable".

The UK has pledged to take 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** by the end of the Parliament - a significantly lower number than the million Germany is expected to take this year alone.

A further three million refugees are expected to arrive in the EU by the end of 2016, according to European Commission estimates published in the autumn.

The UK has also refused to participate in the EU's programme to redistribute refugees from over-strained European economies in southern Europe to elsewhere in the bloc.

Read more

Images of Aylan Kurdi seen by 20 million people in 12 hours

Refugees in Norway discovered with 'executions pictures' say police

Merkel vows to 'tangibly reduce' refugee numbers

Harry Leslie Smith sums up attitudes towards refugees in one paragraph

Most services run by the Northern Refugee Centre are set to be transferred to other agencies and 18 of 27 staff are set to be moved elsewhere.

The charity was trying to plug an estimated £150,000 hole in its funding and had been engaged in a "prolonged attempt to sort future sustainability for the organisation, with negotiations with funders, local authorities and a public appeal", according to a statement.

The Government has been coy on the exact number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** the UK has taken under its extended scheme but expects to settle around 1,000 in the UK by the end of 2015.

**Load-Date:** December 15, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Canada 'to turn away single male refugees' amid fears over Paris attacks; 'All these refugees are vulnerable but some are more vulnerable than others,' Quebec's premier says*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HFN-2TR1-F021-610H-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 24, 2015 Tuesday 11:34 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 456 words

**Byline:** Emma Henderson

**Body**

Canada is expected to turn away single male ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, amidfears followingthe deadly Paris attacks.

Plansexpected to be unveiled mean only whole families, single women or children on their own will be accepted.

Canadian public broadcasterCBC saidthe country's resettlement plan wouldnot extend to unaccompanied men. It comesafter reportstwo of the eight men who killed a total of 130 people in Paris on 13 November wereposing as refugees.

Quebec PremierPhilippe Couillard seemed to corroborate thereport ahead of a meeting with Justin Trudeau, Canada's recently elected Prime Minister.

"All these refugees are vulnerable but some are more vulnerable than others, for example, women, families and also members of religious minorities who are oppressed", he said.

Speaking to Radio Canada, Faisal Alazem of theSyrian Canadian Council,a non-profit group planning to sponsor refugees, said "this is not the ideal scenario".

Read more

Trudeau expected to end missions against Isis and welcome refugees

"I think what happened in Paris has really changed the dynamic and public opinion," he said.

Following the attack inParis, which were claimed by Isis,anIpsos poll for Global Newssuggested60 per cent of Canadians disagreed with plans to accept refugees,

Meanwhile, six in 10 people said theybelieved there were higher security risks associated w

ith

allowing refugees to settle in Canada, according to a separate

poll by

Forum Research

.

A plan to settle 25,000 refugees has been set out by Mr Trudeau, who wants to fast-track the settlement to happen beforethe end of the year.

Hehas faced criticism from opposing parties over theplan, but has insisted security screening will continue to be a high priority.

Former Conservative Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper had previously declined to re-settle more refugees.

Canada's ambassador to Jordan, Bruno Saccomani,confirmed refugees from camps in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey wouldbe flown to Canada from December 1.

According to Petra news agency, he said the operation would cost around CAD $1.2 billion (£590million).

Read more

Syrian Paris attacks survivor defends refugees following US House vote

President Francois Hollande welcomes 30,000 refugees in next two years

Couple cancel wedding to donate money to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Canada hasprided its self on helping asylum seekers, having taken inmore than 1.2 million refugees since the Second World War, including thosefrom Kosovo in the 1990s, Uganda in 1972 and more than 60,000 Vietnamese between 1979 and 1980.

In excess offour million Syrians have fled their country due to conflict since 2011.

**Load-Date:** November 24, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Tom Peck's Sketch: David Cameron's easy ride in Hungary fails to materialise; It is hard to imagine a closer union than between our PMand Hungary's Viktor Orban- but they differ on a crucial point*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HT3-9CR1-JCJY-G3JF-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 7, 2016 Thursday 9:36 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 320 words

**Byline:** Tom Peck

**Body**

On David Cameron's never-ending EU renegotiation tour, Budapest should have been the political equivalent of slipping into a nice warm public bath.

It is hard to imagine a closer union than between our Prime Minister and Hungary's Viktor Orban. This is a chap whose tough talk on benefit scroungers won him three elections, whose response to the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** was to erect a fence along his border, and who - of course - went to Oxford.

There is the odd difference. Having played pro football for FC Felcsut - once, at the age of 38, cancelling a cabinet meeting to do so - Orban has not yet made Cameron's mistake of forgetting their name in public.

Read more

Hungarians 'aren't migrants or parasites,' David Cameron told

That's not the only one. Like virtually every other European leader Cameron has foisted himself upon over the past few weeks, Orban is fine with all of Cameron's demands, More than fine, "grateful", he said, with the exception of the only one that matters - the clampdown on in-work benefits for EU migrants.

Orban spoke in fluent English throughout the joint press conference, switching to Magyar for the one answer that mattered. "This is important," he said. "The language must be precise." It must also, one suspects, be for the benefit of his voters.

This is how it was translated: "We would like to make it clear we are not migrants into the UK. We are citizens of the European Union who can take jobs anywhere within the EU. We do not want to go to the UK and take away from them, to be parasites. Those Hungarians who are there are contributing... They should not be discriminated against."

Earlier, Cameron reminded him that he doesn't have to hold "my referendum" until the end of 2017. "What matters is the substance, not the timing." But the reason he has been zipping around Europe like an easyJet air hostess is because he wanted a deal done by February. Next month. It's not happening.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*German school children who attacked refugee classmates 'being investigated by police'; 'We are unwilling to helplessly watch as a new generation of dim young nationalists grow up, just because their parents may tolerate or even encourage it'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HK9-3361-JCJY-G1H5-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 11, 2015 Friday 4:03 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 431 words

**Byline:** Hardeep Matharu

**Body**

A group of German school children are being investigated by police for seriously injuring their refugee classmates in a series of violent "far right" confrontations, it has been reported.

According to the German news site

The Local

, tensions have been running high at a school near Leipzig for the last month since refugee children learning 'German as a third language' joined their classes.

A group of 13- and 14-year-old German children at the school attacked the new arrivals by spitting on them, throwing stones, shoving and crushing them, and slamming doors shut in their faces, according to police.

They have said the youngest victim of the attacks was a nine-year-old girl who suffered a splintered bone in her arm which had to be put into a cast, and that a 14-year-old refugee child also had to be treated by a doctor after being crushed.

Police are investigating the attackers on suspicion of serious bodily harm, according to the news site.

"School is no place where a possible far-right political atmosphere is the norm," said Saxony Policy.

"The Saxon education authority, school leadership and police headquarters in Leipzig are unwilling to helplessly watch as a new generation of dim young nationalists grow up, just because their parents may tolerate or even encourage it."

The school is considering ways to make the classes safer for the refugee children.

The incidentsareone of a number of protests and confrontations that have taken place across Germany in recent months as increasing numbers of asylum seekers - many of them ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - settle in the country.

Read more

More than 200 refugee homes burned or attacked in Germany

Germany 'made pact with Turkey for EU to take 500,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

Could open-door refugee policy bring about Merkel's downfall?

More than a million asylum seekers are on course to be living in Germany by the end of year, with the current figure at 964,574 - less than one per cent of the nation's total population.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel - this week named as

TIME

magazine's 'person of the year' - has insisted that it is the country's "damned duty" to help refugees, but many believe the warm spirit embodied in the welcome parties held by ordinary Germans to welcome Syrians in the summer has faded.

"We cannot go on continually taking in more than a million refugees each year and trying to integrate them," the chancellor's Social Democrat coalition partners Sigmar Gabriel and Frank-Walter Steinmeie have said.

**Load-Date:** December 11, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Benjamin Netanyahu rejects calls for Israel to take in more refugees - and pledges to build 18-mile border fence instead; Prime minister says Israel has 'neither demographic or geographic depth' to take refugees, instead announcing a new 18-mile border fence*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVT-VWV1-F021-64JP-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 10, 2015 Thursday 3:29 PM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 415 words

**Byline:** Jess Staufenberg

**Body**

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dismissed an urgent call from his opposition leader to "not be apathetic" in the face of desperate ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

The leader of the ruling right-wing Likud Party said Israel was "not indifferent" to the fates of families fleeing persecution from its northern neighbour - which it considers an enemy state - but that the country was not big enough to take them.

He has instead announced that a new 18-mile fence will be built along the frontier with Jordan, Reuters has reported.

His words were in contrast to Isaac Herzog, who is leader of opposition party the Zionist Union, created out of the Labor Party and liberal Hatnuah party at the last 2015 election to try to unseat Mr Netanyahu.

Mr Herzog said this week that Israel was duty-bound to absorb refugees from the civil war, reported the The Times of Israel.

"It is incumbent on Israel to take in refugees from the war and push for the establishment of an urgent international conference on the issue," he was reported as saying on Channel 10 television by the Times of Israel. The refugee crisis - in pictures

"Jews cannot be apathetic when hundreds of thousands of refugees are searching for safe haven."

Half the population of Israel's neighbour, Syria, has been displaced in the last four years.

According to The Jerusalem Post, Mr Netanyahu said: "We have conscientiously treated thousands of wounded from the fighting in Syria, and we have helped them rebuild their lives.

"But Israel is a very small country, with neither demographic or geographic depth, and therefore we must control our borders."

Read more: Finland's prime minister gives home to refugeesThis is how desperate refugees are to enter the EUGermans stage pro-migrant rally with 'refugees welcome' bannersNumber of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** taken in by UK would fit on Tube train

According to Reuters, Mr Netanyahu also said "African migrants" and "Islamist militants" must not be allowed inside the country's borders. Many of the African diaspora are also fleeing brutal dictatorships in Eritrea and Somalia.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, meanwhile, has pointed out that many Palestinian refugees continue to live in sub-human conditions in Syrian camps. He said they should be allowed into the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where he exercises limited self-rule.

But Israel has said the right of return for Palestinian refugees would be decided only as part of a final peace settlement. Israeli-Palestinian talks broke off in 2014.

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Canada's opinion of US reaches record 35-year low after election of Donald Trump; The US president's anti-immigration stance seems to be the reason*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NGX-3KD1-JCJY-G4B4-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 8, 2017 Monday 4:56 PM GMT

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**Section:** US POLITICS; Version:1

**Length:** 423 words

**Byline:** Mythili Sampathkumar

**Body**

Canadians' view on the US have changed for the worse since the election of Donald Trump, according to a new survey.

Fewer than half of thosesurveyed have a "favourable view" of the US, the lowest in the 35 years the survey has been asking the question about the US-Canada relationship.

The survey was a follow up to a similar one conducted in October 2016 ahead of the US election.

Read more

Trump and Trudeau clash in phone call over dairy and lumber

In addition, nearly 20 per cent of survey respondents said they were changing travel plans that included the US. They cited the political climate as a primary reason for doing so.

About eight per cent were considering changing travel plans as well.

The survey of 2,000 people wasconducted by Environics Institute for Survey Research and released to the Globe and Mail newspaper.

Part of the issue seems to be tied to Mr Trump's anti-immigrant stance. He has issued two versions of a travel ban on people entering the US from several Muslim majority countries.

One of his most vocal campaign promises was to build a wall on the nearly 2,000 mile (3,218 km) border with Mexico in an effort to stem illegal immigration.

He has also threatened to cut off federal funding to sanctuary cities in the US who have said they would not pursue arrest and deportation of undocumented immigrants within their borders.

District and federal judges have struck down many of these attempted reforms, but Mr Trump's actions and repeated rhetoric appear to have an impact on Canadian public view of their neighbors.

Almost eight in ten respondents said immigration has a positive impact on their country, a number that has not changed much in the last 15 years.

Six in ten feel there is not too much immigration into their country, bucking the trend toward isolationism and anti-immigration in the US, UK, and France. This is the highest level in nine years.

Read more

Mexican politician climbs border wall to make point about Trump policy

Police powers under Trump's new immigration rules are shocking

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Canada name their baby Justin Trudeau

Donald Trump says he's not scared of a trade war with Canada

The survey also comes after the country accepted over 40,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as well.

However the survey also shows geographical differences in attitudes towards immigration, with the economically struggling province of Alberta having a less favourable view towards it.

Also just over half of the respondents felt "too many immigrants are not adopting Canadian values," according to Globe and Mail reports.

**Load-Date:** May 8, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Aylan Kurdi's last words were 'Daddy, please don't die' as father battled to save him; The three-year-old Syrian boy was buried by his father yesterday*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVK-7H01-JCJY-G48G-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 5, 2015 Saturday 4:27 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 388 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

As Aylan Kurdi's father battled to save him from drowning in the Aegean Sea, the little boy begged him not to die, according to his distraught aunt.

Tima Kurdi told <em class="italic">The Times<em class="italic" />her brother, Abdullah, desperately tried to keep his wife and two children afloat after their dinghy capsized in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

But he had to watch them die one by one.

"When the boat flipped upside down and the waves kept pushing him down, those two boys were in his arms," Ms Kurdi told the newspaper.

"He said he tried with all his power to push them up above the water to breathe and they screamed 'Daddy, please don't die.' "

Three-year-old Aylan's body washed up on a beach in Turkey, the country his family had left just hours after paying smugglers thousands of pounds to take them to the Greek island of Kos.

In a separate interview with the Associated Press, Ms Kurdi said she blamed herself for the deaths of her sister-in-law and two young nephews.

"I blame myself because my brother does not have money," she said.

"I sent him the money to pay the smuggler. If I didn't send him the money, those people still (would be) alive."

Aylan, his five-year-old brother Galip and mother, Rehan, were among 12 people who drowned on the night. The refugee crisis - in pictures

They were buried by their father in their war-town hometown of Kobani yesterday.

Mr Kurdi told relatives he never wants to leave Syria again.

Read more: Aylan Kurdi buried by his father in KobaniBoy's father describes moment sons 'slipped away'Cameron pledges to take in more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

"He only wanted to go to Europe for the sake of his children," said Suleiman Kurdi, an uncle of the grieving father. "Now that they're dead, he wants to stay here in Kobani next to them."

He had previously described his sons as "the most beautiful children in the world".

Photos of Aylan's body reignited anger over the deaths of thousands of desperate refugees trying to reach Europe around the world, sparking calls for increased efforts by EU governments to give them a home.

David Cameron has announced that Britain will take in "thousands more" ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in response to a tide of public support.

This newspaper has started a campaign for the UK to welcome a fair share of refugees.

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*What life is actually like for people living in Syria right now; Kurdish fighters have taken more than 200 villages and towns from Isis in three weeks, under the cover of coalition air strikes*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHJ-TMV1-F021-6346-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 3, 2015 Thursday 11:25 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 433 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

The war in Syria looks very different from the ground, as photographs from the Kurdish frontline show the reality of the warBritish MPs have decided to join.

YPG fighters just 30 miles from Raqqa, the self-declared capital of Isis, prevented around a dozenmilitants from attacking their furthest outpost.

An unexploded suicide vest lies on the ground next to the bodies of the Isis fighters, who mounted an early morning attack against the town of Ain Issa using fog as cover.

Isis fighters killed on a Kurdish outpost

A discarded suicide vest

They were discovered in time and killed.Two were found to be wearing suicide vests and most appeared to be teenagers.

Pictures taken byITV's senior international correspondent John Irvineshow the ruins of an Isis base hit by air strikes.An abandoned Sharia Court can also be seen.

Air strikes damage on Isis base near Mailabia

An abandoned Sharia Court building in Al Hawl

During an offensive launched just before the Paris attacks, the YPG have taken more than 200 villages and towns from Isis in three weeks, under the cover of coalition air strikes.

Read more

Bombing campaign in Syria set to last for years, Michael Fallon says

RAF jets complete first bombing of Isis targets inside Syria

Watch Hilary Benn's impassioned speech on Syria air strikes

MPs vote overwhelmingly in favour of bombing Isis in Syria

Unlike the Kurds, who have been the main group engaged in battle with Isis in Iraq and Syria, there will be no British "boots on the ground".

Instead, the UK will take part in air strikestaking off from RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus.Four RAF Tornado jets launched theirfirst air strikes in Syria, targeting six targets related to an oil field under Isis control in the east of the country.

Refugees from Syria try to organise the queue as they wait to cross into Croatia through the Serbian border on 25 September, 2015 in Bapska, Croatia

A Syrian Kurdish woman crosses the border between Syria and Turkey at the southeastern town of Suruc in Sanliurfa province on 23 September, 2014

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** arrive on the shores of Lesvos island in Greece in an inflatable boat from Turkey on 23 August, 2015

In July, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported the number of refugees fleeing Syriahad surged to over four million people.

The number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who had been resettled in Britain by September, just 216, could fit on a single London Underground train - with plenty of seats to spare.

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Hillary Clinton opposes the Keystone XL pipeline, calls it a distraction to climate change; The Democrat announced her opposition to the project during a community event in Iowa*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H08-D9C1-F021-60R1-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 22, 2015 Tuesday 11:01 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 377 words

**Byline:** Justin Carissimo

**Body**

The front runner for the 2016 general and Democratic elections said on Tuesday that she is against the Keystone XL pipeline.

"I think it is imperative that we look at the Keystone pipeline as what I believe it is - a distraction from important work we have to do on climate change," she said during a community forum in Des Moines, Iowa.

"And unfortunately from my perspective, one that interferes with our ability to move forward with all the other issues - Therefore I oppose it."

Ms Clinton had previously not taken a position on the controversial 1,179-mile project, which is vehemently opposed by progressives in the states.

NBC Newsreports that Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley both issued statements regarding Ms Clinton's announcement.

Senator Sanders wrote: "As a senator who has vigorously opposed the Keystone pipeline from the beginning, I am glad that Secretary Clinton finally has made a decision and I welcome her opposition to the pipeline. Clearly it would be absurd to encourage the extraction and transportation of some of the dirtiest fossil fuel on the planet."

Meanwhile, Mr O'Malley was more critical of her stance.

"On issue after issue - marriage equality, drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants, children fleeing violence in Central America, the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***, and now the Keystone Pipeline, Secretary Clinton has followed - not forged - public opinion," he said.

"Leadership is about stating where you stand on critical issues, regardless of how they poll or focus group."

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus would later release the following statement on Ms Clinton's announcement:

"Hillary Clinton insisted her work on Keystone at the State Department prevented her from taking a position on the pipeline, and now we know she was being blatantly dishonest," he said.

"Clearly, Hillary Clinton's rapid decline in the polls and the prospect of the Vice President entering the race caused her to change course. But instead of backing a job-creating project the American public overwhelmingly supports, Hillary Clinton has sided with extreme special interests, reinforcing how out of touch she is and that she'll say or do anything to get elected."

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2015

**End of Document**



[*A woman 'calling for jihad' was invited on a German talk show; Her appearance provoked an immediate public backlash*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M48-WR71-F021-648F-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

November 8, 2016 Tuesday 1:38 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 447 words

**Byline:** Rick Noack

**Body**

She certainly was an unusual TV guest: Nora Illi, the representative for women of a Swiss Muslim group.

But to many viewers of a popular German Sunday evening talk show, the 32-year-old convert wearing a face veil was also a provocation. It was not because she chose to cover much of her face at a time when a ban on full-face veils in public has been proposed. But rather it was her comments that caused an immediate public backlash.

Speaking on the show, Illi made arguments that some non-Muslims would probably disagree with: "In Islam, women have many rights and possibilities. We don't have to balance family and career as much as other women do. We can evolve in our role."

Read more

German town builds 13ft wall to separate refugees from residents

'Reichsbürger' attacks German police after extremist kills officer

Thousands of refugees successfully sue German government over status

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Germany find mosques too conservative

German police officer dies after being shot by far-right extremist

More controversially, though, Illi appears to think that it is understandable and even praiseworthy that some European youths might think of Syria as the "promised land" and fight there for militant groups, according to social media posts she wrote and that were read out on the talk show.

Referring to those young people, Illi had written in a Facebook post: "Muslims are faced with repressions all over the world. It is no wonder that the temptation to break out of that misery is gigantic.

"One must highly praise such a determination as civil courage, given that context."

Women "who feel that they have been shut out by society and want to break away could view Syria as the promised land, as the only way out," she also has been quoted as arguing.

Her comments were criticised by journalists and talk show panel participants. German media outlets said her TV appearance was being perceived by many viewers as a "call for jihad." Illi has rejected such claims.

Illi's comments come at a sensitive time. After the influx of more than 1 million refugees into the country over the past two years, relations between Muslims and other communities have become a major focus of Germany's public debate. Anti-Islam groups, such as Pegida, continue to attract thousands of supporters at their weekly marches.

Meanwhile, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** complain about German mosques being "too conservative" for them, indicating divergent opinions within Muslim communities in the country.

Such debates are unlikely to disappear over the next months.

The possible prohibition of burqas and a revamped anti-radicalisation strategy may feature in the run-up to next year's general elections.

The Washington Post

**Load-Date:** November 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The plight of Syria's refugees transcends party politics. What's worrying is that Nigel Farage realised that before our Prime Minister; Mr Cameron, unlike Ukip's leader, is a prisoner of strict party discipline*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BC6-7PN1-J9YR-G13F-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 24, 2014 Friday 6:36 PM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 699 words

**Byline:** Andreas Whittam Smith

**Body**

At last, some movement from the Prime Minister on admitting a small number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to this country. He is just beginning to recognise the moral case. In what I think must have been a bit of a panic, he told the House of Commons on Wednesday: "If there are very difficult cases of people who don't belong in refugee camps who have either been disabled by these dreadful attacks, or are in very difficult circumstances, I am happy for us to look at that argument."

Leave aside for the moment that Nigel Farage, leader of the UK Independence Party, got to the same point three weeks ago, and study David Cameron's words. What is this category of people "who don't belong in refugees camps"? If you and your family are crossing the Syrian border in haste, the only place you can go to is a refugee camp. Does "disabled" mean injured, or forced to leave your home?

Evidently the Prime Minister was rattled, blurting out the first things that came into his mind. Compare what he said with Mr Farage's words on 29 December. "I think refugees are a very different thing to economic migration... and I think, actually, there is a responsibility on all of us in the free West to try to help some of those people fleeing Syria, literally in fear of their lives." He added it was time for "a proper debate" about "the difference between a refugee - who fears for his or her life - or somebody moving simply for economic benefit".

The difference between the two statements is striking. Both men are marching towards the most important election battles of their lives, where their troops will be fighting each other hand to hand. These are the European Parliament elections due to be held on Thursday 22 May 2014 and the general election on 7 May 2015. Nonetheless, Mr Farage was prepared to voice sentiments that he must have known would surprise his followers and would probably disappoint many of them. And he put forward a reasoned argument for his position.

Mr Cameron, on the other hand, is a prisoner of strict party discipline. Everything must conform to the line - in this case, "immigration bad, keep the gates tightly locked". Moral arguments, whether they concern, say, the bedroom tax part of welfare reform or, in this case, desperate ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, are to be avoided at all costs. And when the Prime Minister does have to confront one, he starts talking gibberish to hide his confusion. Here, then, are the arguments for the more generous approach.

As the shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, told the House of Commons on Monday, the UN programme, which asks Western nations to accept 30,000 of the 2.3 million Syrians who have fled their country, "is for those whom the UN believes will find it hardest to survive in the camps in the region, such as abandoned children who have no other protection or support; torture victims, who may be suffering immense physical and mental distress; those who need urgent medical help; mothers of young children who have lost their husbands and relatives and are vulnerable; and those who have been abused in the camps. They are not asylum seekers. They cannot travel here or elsewhere to apply for asylum. They are already UN-certified refugees." Pretty clear.

The moral case for admitting, say, 500 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, is being put at its most effective in a play, Kindertransport Live, that is being performed at railway stations and theatres across the country to mark the 75th anniversary of the Kindertransport. This was a programme that gave 10,000 Jewish children - and only children - safe passage to the UK. The British government introduced it in November 1938 after nights of violence against Jews across Germany and Austria. The play recalls the journey of these child evacuees.

We all know the scale of the Holocaust, but Kindertransport made a difference and saved many thousands of lives. That is the point. The play continues its tour until 30 March.

Read more:Editorial: Let them in - Britain has a moral duty to help Syria's refugees'No room at the inn': Britain condemned for turning its back on Syria's refugeesYette Cooper: The situation for Syria's refugees is desperate. Our Government must now sign up to the UN's resettlement plan

**Load-Date:** January 25, 2014

**End of Document**



[*The plight of Syria's refugees transcends party politics. What's worrying is that Nigel Farage realised that before our Prime Minister; Mr Cameron, unlike Ukip's leader, is a prisoner of strict party discipline*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BC0-7X71-DXDT-61R9-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 23, 2014 Thursday 5:52 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 699 words

**Byline:** Andreas Whittam Smith

**Body**

At last, some movement from the Prime Minister on admitting a small number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to this country. He is just beginning to recognise the moral case. In what I think must have been a bit of a panic, he told the House of Commons on Wednesday: "If there are very difficult cases of people who don't belong in refugee camps who have either been disabled by these dreadful attacks, or are in very difficult circumstances, I am happy for us to look at that argument."

Leave aside for the moment that Nigel Farage, leader of the UK Independence Party, got to the same point three weeks ago, and study David Cameron's words. What is this category of people "who don't belong in refugees camps"? If you and your family are crossing the Syrian border in haste, the only place you can go to is a refugee camp. Does "disabled" mean injured, or forced to leave your home?

Evidently the Prime Minister was rattled, blurting out the first things that came into his mind. Compare what he said with Mr Farage's words on 29 December. "I think refugees are a very different thing to economic migration... and I think, actually, there is a responsibility on all of us in the free West to try to help some of those people fleeing Syria, literally in fear of their lives." He added it was time for "a proper debate" about "the difference between a refugee - who fears for his or her life - or somebody moving simply for economic benefit".

The difference between the two statements is striking. Both men are marching towards the most important election battles of their lives, where their troops will be fighting each other hand to hand. These are the European Parliament elections due to be held on Thursday 22 May 2014 and the general election on 7 May 2015. Nonetheless, Mr Farage was prepared to voice sentiments that he must have known would surprise his followers and would probably disappoint many of them. And he put forward a reasoned argument for his position.

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**Load-Date:** January 24, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Government hasn't taken in a single child refugee since very public pledge, reveals peer who escaped the NAis; 'These children are in danger. All the evidence is that some of them are in danger of being lured into crime and prostitution,' says Lord Dubs*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K6G-D3K1-JCJY-G0SM-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 10, 2016 Sunday 2:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 393 words

**Byline:** Matt Payton

**Body**

A peerwho escaped the Nazis as a childhas criticised government ministers for nottaking in a single unaccompanied child refugee since a public pedge to do so earlier this year.

Lord Dubs said no child refugees have been received in the UK since the Prime Minister promisedtoin May.

Mr Cameron made the policy U-turnfollowing mounting political pressure.

Read more

Third of councils in England refuse to take in ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Police say 13-year-old girl made up 'refugee sex attack' at swimming pool in Austria

Families of Jewish refugees who fled the Nazis want to leave UK for Germany after Brexit

Refugees who cannot pay people smugglers 'being sold for organs'

The move came after Lord Dubs, who came to Britain on the Kindertransport programme for Jewish children escaping the Nazis, tabled an amendment to a Bill which would have forced the Government to accept 3,000 child refugees.

Lord Dubs explained the delay meanschildren are still risking their lives trying to smuggle themselves into the country by hiding in lorries.

He said:"Now that the referendum is over it is time they got on with it.

"No one has come through on this scheme yet. The only people who have come through I know are young people I met in Calais who then made it to Britain on the back of a lorry.

"These children are in danger. All the evidence is that some of them are in danger of being lured into crime and prostitution."

In the wake of the EU referendum result, reports of hate crime have increased.

As to whether Britain has become less tolerant as a result of the Brexit,Lord Dubs said: "Yes up to a point it (Britain) is less tolerant. When you contrast it with the Olympics and we had this wonderful international sense of cosmopolitanism and everything was great, now we have moved away from that into becoming more nasty and inward looking.

"But I hope to God it doesn't continue. I know a Belgian family who have been living here for 30 years who were told by their neighbours to get out of the country.

"It is absolutely shocking. It is very depressing, we have sunk in terms of the way we treat other people."

Germany approves new integration law for refugees

A third of English councils have refused to take in ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** due to the cost of housing and supporting them.

So far, councils have only taken in 8,146 refugees of the 20,000 Mr Cameron pledged the UK would accept.

**Load-Date:** July 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Britain is failing to take in its fair share of unaccompanied children, House of Lords report says; 'We found a clear failure among EU countries, including the UK, to shoulder their fair share of the burden'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K9W-F901-JCJY-G13Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 26, 2016 Tuesday 12:24 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 789 words

**Byline:** Ashley Cowburn

**Body**

Unaccompanied child migrants living in squalid conditions across Europe should not be treated as "somebody else's problem" by the UK Government, a new parliamentary report has urged.

The cross-party intervention, which condemns the UKand EU member states for shirking their responsibility to care for unaccompanied children, comes after Theresa May faced heavy criticism for scrapping the Syrian refugee ministerial post just 10 months after it was created by her predecessor. The report - detailing the plight of unaccompanied children on the continent - calls on the Government to take its "fair share".

Placing a particular emphasis on the missing children - now estimated to be more than 10,000 - the 113-page document, produced by the House of Lords' European Union Committee, includes testimonies from witnesses that paint a harrowing picture of the "squalor, destitution and desperation" unaccompanied children face in the EU.

Read more

Theresa May criticised for scrapping minister for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** post

It pours scorn on EU member states for their reluctance to accept responsibility and share the burden of unaccompanied children. But the report singles out the UK for particular criticism, adding: "We deplore the continuing resistance of the UK Government to show solidarity with its European partners in helping to relocate such children."

It also criticises the "lack of burden sharing" between local authorities in Britain - while the 32 London authorities have taken in 1,304 children just 50 are cared for by the 16 authorities in the South West.

Syrian children hold Pokemon pictures in the hope people will find them and save them

"We found that these children face suspicion on arrival. They are seen as 'somebody else's problem' and the conditions they live in were described to us as deplorable and squalid," said the committee chair Baroness Prashar.

"We found a clear failure among EU countries, including the UK, to shoulder their fair share of the burden. We deeply regret the UK's reluctance to relocate migrant children to the UK, in particular those living in terrible conditions in the camps near the channel ports," she added.

"It is particularly shocking that so many unaccompanied child migrants are falling out of the system altogether and going missing. How can member states, including the UK, tolerate a situation where there are more than 10,000 missing migrant children in the EU?"

New Prime minister Theresa May has faced heavy criticism for scrapping the Syrian refugee ministerial post(AFP/Getty Images)

The wide-ranging document also categorically dismisses the Government's argument that the prospect of family reunification could encourage families to send children to Europe unaccompanied in order to act as an "anchor" for other relatives.

The report emerged as Ms May faced heavy criticism for scrapping the Syrian refugee ministerial post. The post was quietly abandoned when Ms May shifted Richard Harrington - appointed by David Cameron as the first ever minister for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - to become her new pensions minister.

Conservative backbencher Heidi Allen said the move was "not a great start" for Ms May, while the Liberal Democrats claimed it showed refugees would be treated worse than they had been under David Cameron. Owen Smith, the Labour leadership challenger, said it was "utterly disgraceful" to scrap the post "at a time when men, women and children are still drowning in the Mediterranean".

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By failing to educate child refugees, we are creating the extremists of the future

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We shouldn't let the attack in Germany taint our view of refugees

But Downing Street defended Ms May's decision to scrap the post of Syrian refugee minister. The Prime Minister's official spokeswoman said the Home Office would retain responsibility to meet the Government's promise to take in 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** by 2020.She added: "There was a role appointed to a specific MP to make sure that the commitment made previously to increase the number of refugees that we resettle got under way, got off to a good start and was delivered upon."

The report,

Children in Crisis: unaccompanied migrant children in the EU,

recommends the establishment of an independent guardianship scheme - at both an EU and UK level - to ensure decision are taken in the best interests of migrant children.

The committee also concludesthat it is vital "on moral grounds" that the UK maintains good relations with the other member states to resolve the humanitarian crisis - despite the Brexit vote.

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Britain is failing to take in its fair share of unaccompanied children, House of Lords report says; 'We found a clear failure among EU countries, including the UK, to shoulder their fair share of the burden'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K9V-8H61-JCJY-G3J7-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Load-Date:** July 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugees and migrants arriving in Greece from Turkey down 90 per cent, says border agency; The drop in numbers follows an agreement between Turkey and the European Union to send back illegal migrants arriving in Greece*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JS7-SW71-F021-60C4-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 13, 2016 Friday 11:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 446 words

**Byline:** Rachael Pells

**Body**

The number of migrants arriving on Greek islands dropped by 90 per cent in April compared to the previous month, according to the European Union border agency.

Frontex, who co-ordinate European border management, said 2,700 people arrived in Greece from Turkey in April, the majority of whom were from Syria, Pakistan, Afganistan and Iraq.

Frontex Executive Director, Fabrice Leggeri, described the drop in numbers as "dramatic".

Read more

The EU refugee rescue mission is a triumph of humanitarianism - not that you'll hear about it

Thousands of children trapped in Palestinian refugee camp bombed by Syrian government

Refugee crisis: War and disaster internally displaces a record 40.8m people around the world, says report

"The total for all of April is well below the number of people we often saw reaching just the island of Lesbos on a daily basis during last year's peak months," he said.

The drop in numbers is said to be a result of several factors, including the EU-turkey agreement to control traffic, as well as stricter border policies applied at the Greek-Macedonian border.

Under the EU's agreement with Turkey, all migrants and refugees who cross into Greece illegally - including Syrians - are sent back.

In return, the EU has said it will take in thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** directly from Turkey, rewarding the country with more money, early visa-free travel and faster progress in EU membership talks.

Due to the significant drop in arrivals to the Aegean islands, the number of migrants reaching Italy exceeded the totals for Greece for the first time since June 2015.

Read more

UN and Amnesty attack EU's 'short-sighted and inhumane' refugee deal

According to the borders agency, 8,370 migrants arrived in Italy through the longer, central Mediterranean route from north Africa. Eritreans, Egyptians and Nigerians accounted for the majority of these migrants.

Frontex said there was no sign that migrants were shifting from the route to Greece along the central Mediterranean route instead, since the number of people arriving in Italy had also reduced, by 13 per cent since March and down by half since April last year.

The Norwegian Refugee Council have contested this statement, however, after Italian coastguards helped rescue another 801 people from north African boats on Thursday.

"This might be a first sign of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** now choosing the much more dangerous route across the Mediterranean from Northern Africa to Italy, in search of protection in Europe," said Edouard Rodier, Europe director at the Norwegian humanitarian agency.

"If this continues, the EU-Turkey deal is not only a failure, but may also result in more deaths at sea," he said in a statement.

**Load-Date:** May 13, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: EU deportations to Turkey from Lesbos continue despite protests; 'A dark day for the Refugee Convention, a dark day for Europe and a dark day for humanity'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JGM-YBR1-JCJY-G3BH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 8, 2016 Friday 11:44 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 466 words

**Byline:** Matt Broomfield

**Body**

A second group of refugees has been deported from Lesbos to Turkey, despite activists attempting to stop the ferry leaving the harbour b

y clinging onto its anchor.

A ferry carrying 45 Pakistani refugees left Greece for the Turkish port of Dikili on Friday morning.Three volunteers were arrested after jumping into the harbour in Mytilene, trying to stop the boat from leaving the port.

They were dragged from the water by the Greek coastguard, and the ship left for Turkey. Five protestors demanding that the refugees be allowed to remain were also arrested outside the port, where they reportedly clashed with fascist demonstrators.

The activists chanted "stop deportations","EU, shame on you" and "freedom for the refugees".

This was only the second deportation since Ankara agreed their controversial deal with the EU, described by the UK director of Amnesty International as "a dark day for the Refugee Convention, a dark day for Europe and a dark day for humanity."

Under the terms of the deal, the EU will house one of the more than 2.5 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** residing in Turkey for every "irregular" refugee returned from Greece to Turkish shores.

Read more

Hamburg's wealthy take to streets in posh protest over refugee hostel

Pictures of life for Turkey's 2.5 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Refugees 'will start killing themselves' if they are sent to Turkey

The Erdogan government has also scooped around £2.3 billion in aid, and is set to secure free movement through the Schengen zone for its citizens and "re-energised" negotiations over EU membership.

However, there is currently only enough room for around 200,000 people in Turkey's refugee camps, while the government has also been accused of denying refugees access to basic supplies and shooting Syrians dead at the border.An estimated 80% of Syrian refugee children in Turkey are unable to attend school.

On Monday, 202 refugees were sent back to Turkey. Deportations have since slowedas refugees rush to be considered for asylum rather than be dispatched to Turkey,which is not considered a "safe country" by charities such as Amnesty.

The UN has also suggested the deal may violate international law. Refugees have a right to be sent to a "safe country", and it is also illegal to carry out"blanket" deportations without considering individual refugees' right to asylum.

Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said: "I am deeply concerned about any arrangement that would involve the blanket return of anyone from one country to another without spelling out the refugee protection safeguards under international law."

Around 80 refugees are expected to leave Lesbos in a second deportation occuring later today.

**Load-Date:** April 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*EU refugee deal hits setback as Cyprus objects to Turkey bid*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J8V-8431-JCS0-D2N1-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

March 12, 2016 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 30

**Length:** 446 words

**Byline:** LEO CENDROWICZ IN BRUSSELS

**Body**

The European Union's controversial refugee deal with Turkey risks being torpedoed by Cyprus, which says it cannot accept the restart of Turkey's bid for EU membership.

Under the planned deal, which leaders hope to confirm at another summit next week, Turkey would take back ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who land in Greece in exchange for Euro 6bn in aid, easier visa access to Europe for Turks and a speeding up of stalled EU accession talks.

But now Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades has said he will not lift his country's veto on opening five new "chapters" in Turkey's EU membership negotiations. "I will never accept being forced, and I will never give my consent, because otherwise I have no other choice but to not return back home," he told the Financial Times.

The veto has been in place since 2009, over Turkey's refusal to recognise the Greek Cypriot government in Nicosia or allow Cypriot ships to dock in its ports.

An attempt to resolve the dispute that erupted when Turkey invaded northern Cyprus in 1974, dividing the island, had been making headway. Cyprus argues that this is the wrong time to give away any diplomatic leverage. Although Cyprus is blocking six of the 33 chapters, both Germany and France have also blocked parts of the negotiations.

The proposed arrangement would mean sending back to Turkey every Syrian refugee who crosses into Greece illegally. In exchange, the EU would accept, on a one-for-one basis, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** applying through legal channels from Turkey. It is due to be confirmed at a summit in Brussels at the end of next week.

Turkey has addressed a key concern of human rights activists: that it is a "safe" country for the return of illegal migrants. Officials say they are planning new legislation, including readmission agreements, with 14 countries, such as Afghanistan.

Ankara also says it will introduce a new personal data security law, roll out biometric passports, and tighten regulation of its border security agency as it prepares for the planned liberalisation of visa rules. The deal has nonetheless been criticised by the leader of Turkey's opposition party, which says Ankara should have offered the EU Euro 6bn to take all the refugees, rather than the other way round.

"Let us give Euro 6bn to them and let them take all Syrians, Afghans and Pakistanis themselves," Kemal Kilicdaroglu of the Republican People's Party (CHP) told the Hurriyet newspaper.

Meanwhile, EU justice ministers agreed to adopt new anti-terrorism rules criminalising preparatory acts such as training, travelling abroad and financing terrorism. The attempt to harmonise EU states' rules and crack down on foreign fighters follows last November's Paris attacks.

**Load-Date:** March 11, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Britain is failing to take in its fair share of unaccompanied children, House of Lords report says; 'We found a clear failure among EU countries, including the UK, to shoulder their fair share of the burden'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K9W-F901-JCJY-G13X-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 26, 2016 Tuesday 12:24 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

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**Byline:** Ashley Cowburn

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Placing a particular emphasis on the missing children - now estimated to be more than 10,000 - the 113-page document, produced by the House of Lords' European Union Committee, includes testimonies from witnesses that paint a harrowing picture of the "squalor, destitution and desperation" unaccompanied children face in the EU.

Read more

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New Prime minister Theresa May has faced heavy criticism for scrapping the Syrian refugee ministerial post(AFP/Getty Images)

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'Syrians want to go home as soon as possible- Britain is not on their radar': Inside the Middle East's biggest refugee camp

We shouldn't let the attack in Germany taint our view of refugees

But Downing Street defended Ms May's decision to scrap the post of Syrian refugee minister. The Prime Minister's official spokeswoman said the Home Office would retain responsibility to meet the Government's promise to take in 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** by 2020.She added: "There was a role appointed to a specific MP to make sure that the commitment made previously to increase the number of refugees that we resettle got under way, got off to a good start and was delivered upon."

The report,

Children in Crisis: unaccompanied migrant children in the EU,

recommends the establishment of an independent guardianship scheme - at both an EU and UK level - to ensure decision are taken in the best interests of migrant children.

The committee also concludesthat it is vital "on moral grounds" that the UK maintains good relations with the other member states to resolve the humanitarian crisis - despite the Brexit vote.

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Cologne sex attacks: Two men 'of an immigrant background' arrested with note translating threats to women; Note allegedlycarriedtranslations of phrases including"Beautiful breasts", "I want to have sex with you"and "I'll kill you"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HT7-SBV1-F021-61FT-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 468 words

**Byline:** John Hall

**Body**

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The pair are understood to have been detained overnight while near the city's central station - an area where many of the assaults took place.

One of them was carrying a note written in both German and Arabic carrying translations of phrases including"Beautiful breasts", "I want to have sex with you"and "I'll kill you", the Telegraph reported.

Germany's privacy laws have prevented the men being named, the newspaper added. Their nationality remains unclear.

Cologne victims speak

Women protest against sexism outside Cologne Cathedral on 5 January after the assaults

The news follows claims in a leaked police report that some of the perpetrators of the Cologne sex attacks claimed they were ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, with one telling officers "you have to treat me kindly! Mrs Merkel invited me."

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Women march through Cologne holding placards reading 'Against Sexism, Against Racism'

In total more than 120 criminal complaints were filed in Cologne alone, with a further 50 in Hamburg - many of them alleging that large groups of men were "hunting" female revellers during the New Year's celebrations and subjecting them to sexual assault and robbery.

In many cases police described the alleged perpetrators as being of "southern or Arab" or "North African" appearance.

Police officers stand in front of the main train station in Cologne on New Year's Eve

Such claims have sparked anger across Germany, where many have been quick to accuse asylum seekers of carrying out the New Year's Eve sexual assaults and robberies, adding that the criminality is the result of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's unpopular "open door" refugee policy.

Read more

Leaked police report reveals 'chaos beyond description' in Cologne

Anti-Muslim group Pegida to stage rally in Cologne after sex attacks

We should look to the gender of the Cologne attackers - not their race

'Some of the Cologne sex attackers claimed to be ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

The policy led to the arrival of 1.1 million asylum seekers - many of them desperate Syrians fleeing their war-ravaged homeland - in 2015.

Germany's justice minister Heiko Maas yesterday warned that "deportations would certainly be conceivable" for any asylum seeker found to have taken part in the New Year's Eve attacks.

**Load-Date:** January 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Obama says US must not turn its back on Syria refugees; His comments at G20 in Turkey came after senior Republicans said the US should stop accepting refugees from Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HD0-0511-F021-64MJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 16, 2015 Monday 5:14 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 457 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

Barack Obama has said the US had to do its part to take refugees from Syria and said it was important not to simply equate the Paris attacks with Islam.

"The overwhelming majority of victims of terrorism....are Muslims. ISIL does not represent Islam, it is not representative in any way of the attitudes of the overwhelming majority of Muslims," he said, speaking at the G20 summit in Turkey.

"We also have to remember that many of these refugees are victims of terrorism themselves. That's why they're fleeing. Slamming the door in their faces would be a betrayal of our values."

Mr Obama, who also claimed Muslims needed to do more to ensure young people were "not infected" with the beliefs of extremists, spoke after several political leaders had suggested reducing the number of refugees from Syria. He also ruled out sending US ground troops to confront Isis.

I just signed an Executive Order instructing state agencies to take all available steps to stop the relocation of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to LA.

- Gov. Bobby Jindal (@BobbyJindal) November 16, 2015

The US has vowed to accept 10,000 Syrians by the end of next year - a modest figure compared to the numbers being resettled by many nations.

But some have said the US should shut its doors. The Republican governors of Louisiana, Texas, Alabama and Michigan have said thye would not allow ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in their states.

Donald Trump on Monday said: "You can't let them in because it would be one of the great Trojan horses."

Meanwhile, two other Republican presidential candidates, Jeb Bush and Ted Cruz, have said that any US assistance to Middle Eastern refugees should focus primarily on Christians fleeing persecution.

The Obama administration has said all refugees underwent thorough screening. Yet the president said it was wrong to impose a "religious test".

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French official calls for 'dissolution of mosques where hate preached'

Where does Isis get its money and arms?

Italian police hunt Paris attack suspect driving black Seat vehicle

"That's shameful. That's not American. That's not who we are," he said.

Republican opposition to accepting more refugees from Syria has become more strident since it emerged that a Syrian passport, bearing the name Ahmed Almuhamed, was found near the remains of a suicide bomber at Paris' Stade de France on Friday night.

Mother Jones

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**Load-Date:** November 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Government U-turn over Syria: 500 of most vulnerable refugees to be let into Britain; Nick Clegg announces decision after campaign by The Independent*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BD7-7GR1-J9YR-G405-00000-00&context=1519360)

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January 29, 2014 Wednesday 12:45 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 981 words

**Byline:** Andrew Grice, Jamie Merrill

**Body**

About 500 of the most vulnerable ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** will be allowed to enter Britain, the Government has announced as it completed its U-turn on the issue.

Nick Clegg, who has been pressing David Cameron for weeks to admit hundreds of refugees, said the UK would open its doors to women and girls who had experienced or were at risk from sexual violence, the elderly, the disabled and survivors of torture.

Mr Cameron overruled objections from Theresa May, the Home Secretary, who wants to do everything to ensure the Conservatives meet their target to reduce net migration below 100,000 by next year's general election. "He realised that, although we are the good guys and the second largest donor of humanitarian aid to Syria in the world, we were in danger of looking like the villains," said one Government insider.

Maurice Wren, chief executive of the Refugee Council, which co-ordinated two open letters to Mr Cameron published in The Independent, said: "This isn't about party politics, it's about compassion and the Refugee Council is delighted the UK Government looks set to deploy a full spectrum of solutions in addressing the greatest refugee crisis of our time."

He added that The Independent deserved "the highest praise" for its sustained coverage of the issue.

Britain will not join the UNHRC programme to resettle 30,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, which Mrs May warned would set a precedent, so it will not fix a formal quota. But the UNHRC has backed the Government's move and will work closely with it to identify refugees in urgent need of help. "We are not focused on a target, we're focused on helping the most vulnerable," said a Whitehall source. About 500 Syrians are expected to come to the UK over the next year.

Mr Clegg said: "The Coalition Government wants to play our part in helping to alleviate the immense suffering in Syria.

"We are one of the most open-hearted countries in the world and I believe we have a moral responsibility to help. Sadly we cannot provide safety for everyone who needs it, but we can reach out to some of those who need it most."

The Deputy Prime Minister's announcement takes the heat out of a Commons debate on the issue today called by Labour. The Government's previous hard line had raised the prospect of an embarrassing defeat amid all-party criticism of its stance.

Yvette Cooper, the shadow Home Secretary, who led the demands for a U-turn, said: "Compassion and common sense have prevailed over government and ministerial resistance."

She added: "Given the considerable flexibility in the UN programme for countries to set their own priorities, numbers and security checks, the benefits of not running parallel bureaucracy and the value of being able to encourage other countries to follow suit, the Government would be best to sign up with the UN."

She said ministers now need to confirm that the 500 would not be at the expense of the 750 refugees the UK accepts every year. She called for refugees to be exempt from the Tories' migration target

Syamend Farhan, a Syrian refugee living in Manchester, welcomed the Government's move, saying: "I am very happy to hear that because I lived what they are living... The first thing they are going to escape is hunger, and the risk of dying. Getting a passport in Syria at the moment is impossible. People aren't able even to move to Lebanon, Turkey or Jordan. I was lucky, I already had a passport."

The 21-year-old student added that even taking a few "from the mass of those suffering means something". He said: "If other countries do the same then little by little the suffering will be reduced".

Timetable of a U-turn

December 26: The Independent reveals that David Cameron is under pressure to reverse the Government's rejection of UNHCR request to allow some ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to come to Britain. Labour calls for 400-500  Syrians to be allowed in.

January 6: Nick Clegg defends the Government's policy but says that more than 1,000 Syrians have been allowed entry as asylum-seekers in past year. Refugee groups point out that most of the 2.4m people in camps in neighbouring countries have no prospect of reaching Britain to claim asylum.

January 18: Letter signed by 25 aid agencies and refugee groups, published in The Independent, urges the Government to join 18 western countries backing the UNHCR's resettlement programme. They ask: " How can we call on Syria's neighbours to keep their borders open to refugees if we keep our own under lock and key?"

January 20: Labour tables emergency Commons question. Mark Harper, Immigration Minister, comes under fire from Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour MPs after saying that joining UNHCR scheme would be  a "token" gesture.

January 22: David Cameron softens the Government's line when Ed Miliband raises the issue at Prime Minister's Questions. The PM says he is ready to see some of the most vulnerable refugees come to UK. To keep up the pressure, Labour announces Commons debate and vote a week later.

January 23: The Independent reveals that Nick Clegg has been pushing behind the scenes for weeks for the Government to admit hundreds of Syrians, and is now "hopeful" of persuading the Conservatives.

January 24: Fifty-five peers from all parties call for Britain to sign up to the UN programme. In a letter published in The Independent, they say the scheme is a "moral imperative" and the only "durable solution".

January 26: William Hague, the Foreign Secretary, tells the BBC that Theresa May, the Home Secretary, is preparing to announce plans to help "particularly vulnerable" refugees.

January 27: Mrs May confirms that an announcement will be made before Wednesday's Commons debate called by Labour.

January 28: Nick Clegg confirms that hundreds of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** will be allowed in, including women and girls at risk of sexual violence; the elderly; the disabled and survivors of torture. In pictures: Syria's escalating refugee crisis

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Cologne sex attacks: Two men 'of an immigrant background' arrested with note translating threats to women; Note allegedllycarriedtranslations of phrases including"Beautiful breasts", "I want to have sex with you"and "I'll kill you"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HT7-SBV1-F021-61FS-00000-00&context=1519360)

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January 8, 2016 Friday 1:34 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 468 words

**Byline:** John Hall

**Body**

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Police officers stand in front of the main train station in Cologne on New Year's Eve

Such claims have sparked anger across Germany, where many have been quick to accuse asylum seekers of carrying out the New Year's Eve sexual assaults and robberies, adding that the criminality is the result of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's unpopular "open door" refugee policy.

Read more

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**Load-Date:** January 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The economic data tell us there's no cause for alarm about refugees; It's worth remembering that skills and talent flee along with people*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HYB-7WB1-F021-60X6-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 27, 2016 Wednesday 6:44 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 819 words

**Byline:** Ben Chu

**Body**

There has been some disgraceful treatment of refugees across Europe in recent days. The Danish parliament has passed a law forcing refugees to surrender their valuables on arrival. Asylum-seekers in Cardiff have been required to wear coloured wristbands to receive food. Our own Government is still "considering" whether to take in 3,000 unaccompanied children who have fled the Middle East's war zones. Quite a way to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

Great currents of fear about refugees are swirling around the Continent. Some of this anxiety relates to culture, some to crime, some to terrorism, but much is economic in nature. And there are many economic myths around asylum-seekers.

First, the numbers. One prevalent idea is that Europe is bearing the brunt of the human fallout from the conflicts of the Middle East. There has certainly been a pronounced pick-up in asylum applications in the European Union: 995,000 in 2015 alone, double the previous year. Yet that still needs to be put in a global perspective. Of the 14 million cross-border refugees worldwide just one million are in Europe. There are two million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Turkey alone. Jordan is also home to two million displaced people, equivalent to around a third of the native population.

Read more

George Osborne warned his 'national living wage' will spark job cuts

Another perception is that refugees are all indigents who can't work or contribute economically. But the experience of Nordic countries in recent decades suggests the labour market participation rates of refugees show the greatest increase over time of all migrant groups. While on arrival only around 15 per cent of refugees in Sweden worked that ratio ultimately rose to more than 60 per cent.

It's worth remembering that skills flee along with people. In Germany a fifth of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in 2013-14 had been through higher education, roughly the same ratio as native Germans. This may be because often only wealthier and more educated individuals can afford the passage to Europe. Another fear centres around how European countries with already painfully high jobless rates, such as Spain and Greece, can possibly cope if there is a new influx into the labour market. Yet most asylum-seekers have tended to choose to claim asylum in countries with high employment rates such as Germany and Sweden.

What about the impact of refugees on the economy and public finances? The International Monetary Fund recently estimated that there will actually be a modest short-term GDP boost due to the higher government spending on feeding and sheltering refugees. The IMF also suggests refugees can, in the longer term, help alleviate Europe's demographic crisis, helping relieve the pressure on national pension systems. Many fear that a flow of refugees will have a negative impact on natives' living standards. But evidence from Turkey suggests its sizeable influx of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** into the informal local labour market has actually boosted the average wages of native workers in the formal economy.

In the end, the case for generosity to refugees should be based on humanitarian, rather than economic, arguments and there is a danger of over-claiming over the material benefits from an open door policy. There is a short-term boost to Europe's GDP under the IMF's latest forecasts, but GDP per capita is still seen as falling slightly. And much of long-term fiscal impact will depend on the extent of refugees' participation in the labour market and the skills mix of refugees. Yet it is still useful to dowse the economic alarmism. The facts also suggest some sensible policy avenues for politicians. The net impact on the public finances of higher refugee flows could be offset by allowing asylum-seekers to work while awaiting their claims to be processed. The UK has considerably more onerous restrictions in this regard than Germany and Sweden.

Read more

Global income inequality is falling - but we should still be wary

Finally, we should recognise that refugees are not simply economic statistics, but people with talents and ambitions. A 17-year-old Hungarian called George Soros fled to England in 1947. He earned a crust as a waiter, a house painter and, bizarrely, a handbag salesman in Wales. The billionaire investor and philanthropist for liberal causes recalls, with gratitude, that he was able to dream about making his fortune in Britain while still a displaced person. Similarly, Michael Marks arrived in Leeds as a child from Belarus to escape anti-Jewish pogroms in the 1880s. He founded a penny bazaar in the city which eventually became Marks & Spencer. His business empire was significant even before Marks was finally naturalised as a British subject in 1897.

If we're going to think about the economics of refugees, let's remember that there will be more like Soros and Marks among the wretched masses fleeing war and repression and seeking asylum in Europe today.

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Obama says US must not turn its back on Syria refugees; His comments at G20 in Turkey came after senior Republicans said the US should stop accepting refugees from Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HD0-0511-F021-64MK-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 16, 2015 Monday 5:26 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 460 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

Barack Obama has said the US had to do its part to take refugees from Syria and said it was important not to simply equate the Paris attacks with Islam.

"The overwhelming majority of victims of terrorism....are Muslims. ISIL does not represent Islam, it is not representative in any way of the attitudes of the overwhelming majority of Muslims," he said, speaking at the G20 summit in Turkey.

"We also have to remember that many of these refugees are victims of terrorism themselves. That's why they're fleeing. Slamming the door in their faces would be a betrayal of our values."

Mr Obama, who also claimed Muslims needed to do more to ensure young people were "not infected" with the beliefs of extremists, spoke after several political leaders had suggested reducing the number of refugees from Syria. He also ruled out sending US ground troops to confront Isis.

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Read more

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Mother Jones

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**Load-Date:** November 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*#BuyPens: Syrian refugee photographed selling pens to feed children uses crowdfunding to start businesses; Abdul Halim al-Attar is now employing other refugees in the three businesses he started using money raised by well-wishers around the world*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHK-G421-F021-635R-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 3, 2015 Thursday 5:27 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 730 words

**Byline:** Maeva Bambuck

**Body**

Abdul Halim al-Attar, a refugee from Syria who was photographed selling pens in the streets of Beirut, is now running three businesses in the city after an online crowdfunding campaign in his name collected $191,000 (£127,000).

The 33-year-old father of two opened a bakery two months ago and has since added a kebab shop and a small restaurant to his business venture. He employs 16 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

The photograph of al-Attar carrying his sleeping daughter on his shoulder while trying to sell pens to passing motorists in the scorching heat went viral this past summer and touched people across the world.

One of those moved by his plight was an online journalist and web developer in Norway, Gissur Simonarson, who created a Twitter account under the name (at)buy-pens and an Indiegogo campaign to raise $5,000 for al-Attar and his family. When it closed three months later, the campaign had collected almost forty times more: $188,685. Another $2,324 in donations has trickled in since then.

Read more

Syrian refugee to use money from #BuyPens campaign to help others

#BuyPens: Refugee pictured selling pens in Beirut says he'll help

'Pen seller of Beirut' may lose quarter of proceeds from viral fund

"Not only did my life change, but also the lives of my children and the lives of people in Syria whom I helped," he said. Al-Attar said he gave away about $25,000 to friends and relatives in Syria.

Al-Attar also quickly built a better life for himself and his family in Beirut. His wife returned to Syria and they are currently separated.

In addition to the food businesses, al-Attar moved his children from the one bedroom that they all shared to a two-bedroom apartment in an unfinished building overlooking the highway in southern Beirut. The apartment is noisy and sparse, but 4-year-old Reem, who was draped over her father's shoulder in the viral photo, proudly displays her new toys: plastic kitchenware, a swing and a stuffed bear that seems to be her favorite. Her brother, 9-year-old Abdullelah, is back in school after three years of absence.

A Palestinian fighter walks through the rubble of the al-Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp, south of Damascus, Syria

For al-Attar, it's a long way from Yarmouk, the Palestinian refugee camp on the southern edge of Damascus where he was employed at a chocolate factory. The camp is now devastated by fighting. Although he is from Syria, al-Attar is Palestinian and does not have Syrian citizenship.

Getting the funds to al-Attar has been a struggle. So far he has only received 40 percent of roughly $168,000, after Indiegogo and Paypal took out about $20,000 in processing and banking fees. PayPal does not operate in Lebanon, so at the moment the cash is brought over to Lebanon bit-by-bit by a friend of the campaign who can make withdrawals in Dubai.

"Seeing that he opened a restaurant and his kids look well taken care of, I'm really happy," Simonarson said in a phone interview from Oslo. But he also said he was disheartened "after seeing how difficult the disbursement has been, and complications with refugees not being able to open a bank account in Lebanon. I think that will be my last fundraiser."

Despite his frustration and the uncertainty about when and whether he'll receive the rest of his money, al-Attar feels grateful. He is breaking even with steady orders of fresh bread and shawarmas from nearby workers and families in the working class neighborhood of Ared Jaloul.

"I had to invest the money, otherwise it will be lost," he said, bagging a roasted chicken sandwich.

He sported a T-shirt reading "Stay positive," and a large smile. "When God wants to grant you something, you'll get it," he said.

He and his 16 employees are lucky to have jobs in Lebanon. There are about 1.2 million registered ***Syrian refugees*** in the country, most of them struggling to find work. Only a third of all ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Lebanon have some form of employment, according to a 2014 report by the International Labour Organization.

Al-Attar is also getting used to his newfound status. Once an anonymous street vendor, he now feels like a member of his community. Lebanese and Syrians alike are nicer to him.

"They just greet me better now when they see me. They respect me more," he said with a smile.

Associated Press

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The economic data tell us there's no cause for alarm about refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HYF-J091-F072-402K-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 28, 2016 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 28

**Length:** 793 words

**Byline:** Ben Chu

**Body**

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What about the impact of refugees on the economy and public finances? The International Monetary Fund recently estimated that there will actually be a short-term GDP boost due to the higher government spending on feeding and sheltering refugees. The IMF also suggests refugees can, in the longer term, help alleviate Europe's demographic crisis, helping relieve the pressure on national pension systems. Many fear that a flow of refugees will have a negative impact on natives' living standards. But evidence from Turkey suggests its sizeable influx of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** into the informal local labour market has actually boosted the average wages of native workers.

In the end, the case for generosity to refugees should be based on humanitarian, rather than economic, arguments and there is a danger of over-claiming over the material benefits from an open door policy. There is a short-term boost to Europe's GDP under the IMF's latest forecasts, but GDP per capita is still seen as falling slightly. And much of the long-term fiscal impact will depend on the extent of refugees' participation in the labour market and the skills mix of refugees. Yet it is still useful to dowse the economic alarmism. The facts also suggest some sensible policy avenues for politicians. The net fiscal impact on the public finances of higher refugee flows could be offset by allowing asylum-seekers to work while awaiting their claims to be processed. The UK has considerably more onerous restrictions in this regard than Germany and Sweden.

Finally, we should recognise that refugees are not simply economic statistics, but people with talents and ambitions. A 17-year-old Hungarian called George Soros fled to England in 1947. He earned a crust as a waiter, a house painter and, bizarrely, a handbag salesman in Wales. The billionaire investor and philanthropist for liberal causes recalls, with gratitude, that he was able to dream about making his fortune in Britain while still a displaced person. Similarly, Michael Marks arrived in Leeds as a child from Belarus to escape anti-Jewish pogroms in the 1880s. He founded a penny bazaar in the city which eventually became Marks & Spencer. His business empire was significant even before Marks was finally naturalised as a British subject in 1897.

If we're going to think about the economics of refugees, let's remember that there will be more like Soros and Marks among the wretched masses fleeing war and repression and seeking asylum in Europe today.

Twitter: @BenChu\_

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The economic data tell us there's no cause for alarm about refugees; It's worth remembering that skills and talent flee along with people*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HY9-PWX1-JCJY-G169-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 27, 2016 Wednesday 4:37 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 814 words

**Byline:** Ben Chu

**Body**

There has been some disgraceful treatment of refugees across Europe in recent days. The Danish parliament has passed a law forcing refugees to surrender their valuables on arrival. Asylum-seekers in Cardiff have been required to wear coloured wristbands to receive food. Our own Government is still "considering" whether to take in 3,000 unaccompanied children who have fled the Middle East's war zones. Quite a way to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

Great currents of fear about refugees are swirling around the Continent. Some of this anxiety relates to culture, some to crime, some to terrorism, but much is economic in nature. And there are many economic myths around asylum-seekers.

First, the numbers. One prevalent idea is that Europe is bearing the brunt of the human fallout from the conflicts of the Middle East. There has certainly been a pronounced pick-up in asylum applications in the European Union: 995,000 in 2015 alone, double the previous year. Yet that still needs to be put in a global perspective. Of the 14 million cross-border refugees worldwide just one million are in Europe. There are two million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Turkey alone. Jordan is also home to two million displaced people, equivalent to around a third of the native population.

Read more

George Osborne warned his 'national living wage' will spark job cuts

Another perception is that refugees are all indigents who can't work or contribute economically. But the experience of Nordic countries in recent decades suggests the labour market participation rates of refugees show the greatest increase over time of all migrant groups. While on arrival only around 15 per cent of refugees worked that ultimately rose to more than 60 per cent.

It's worth remembering that skills and talent flee along with people. In Germany a fifth of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in 2013-14 had been through higher education, roughly the same ratio as native Germans. This may be because often only wealthier and more educated individuals can afford the passage to Europe. Another fear centres around how European countries with already painfully high jobless rates, such as Spain and Greece, can possibly cope if there is a new influx into the labour market. Yet most asylum-seekers have tended to choose to claim asylum in countries with high employment rates such as Germany and Sweden.

What about the impact of refugees on the economy and public finances? The International Monetary Fund recently estimated that there will actually be a short-term GDP boost due to the higher government spending on feeding and sheltering refugees. The IMF also suggests refugees can, in the longer term, help alleviate Europe's demographic crisis, helping relieve the pressure on national pension systems. Many fear that a flow of refugees will have a negative impact on natives' living standards. But evidence from Turkey suggests its sizeable influx of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** into the informal local labour market has actually boosted the average wages of native workers.

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Read more

Global income inequality is falling - but we should still be wary

Finally, we should recognise that refugees are not simply economic statistics, but people with talents and ambitions. A 17-year-old Hungarian called George Soros fled to England in 1947. He earned a crust as a waiter, a house painter and, bizarrely, a handbag salesman in Wales. The billionaire investor and philanthropist for liberal causes recalls, with gratitude, that he was able to dream about making his fortune in Britain while still a displaced person. Similarly, Michael Marks arrived in Leeds as a child from Belarus to escape anti-Jewish pogroms in the 1880s. He founded a penny bazaar in the city which eventually became Marks & Spencer. His business empire was significant even before Marks was finally naturalised as a British subject in 1897.

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**Load-Date:** January 27, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Government to begin talks on resettlement of refugees in Britain; David Cameron has pledged to accept 20,000 refugees from Syria by 2020*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWV-S051-F021-6257-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 11, 2015 Friday 10:59 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 477 words

**Byline:** Jess Staufenberg

**Body**

The UK government's plan to accept 20,000 refugees from Syria by 2020 is due to be thrashed out by ministers and local government leaders.

David Cameron's change of heart over the refugee crisis - at the start of last week he said no more Middle Eastern refugees would be accepted - will now be looked at in detail by a committee.

Analysis: Cutting overseas aid will make things worsePrivate landlords urged to provide quality housing to refugeesComment: The refugee crisis is more of a threat to new Europe

Chaired by Home Secretary Theresa May and joined by Communities and Local Government Secretary Greg Clarke, the committee will look at what it has called a "challenging" target, reported Sky News.

However, opposition politicians Yvette Cooper and Harriet Harman have criticised the plan as not generous enough, saying 4,000 refugees a year does not contribute sufficient help to other struggling EU countries.

Ms Cooper said at the start of last week that if each town hosted 10 refugee families, the nation could take in 10,000 refugees in one month - rather than that 10,000 people over two and half years.

Mrs May and Mr Clarke's committee talks will be with the Local Government Association (LGA), which is anxious to know how more housing and services for refugees will be funded.

Obama directs US government to accept 10,000 refugeesArsenal to raise funds for refugeesHungarian camerawoman filmed kicking refugees says sorry

According to Sky News, government sources have warned the current refugee re-settlement plan is too limited to welcome ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** properly and effectively.

Officials have also said there is concern over not admitting anyone who might be a terrorist.

"We don't want to bring anyone in who might be a risk," a source told Sky News.

At Prime Minister's Questions this week, Mr Cameron said that Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad "had to go", the extremist militant group Isis must be beaten and "hard military force" might be necessary to intervene in Syria.

Yet the Syrian prime minister rejected a proposal by the British government to lead a transitional government before stepping down in six months, the Guardian reported yesterday.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

Mr Cameron also made clear at PMQs that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and other refugees might be treated differently. He referred to those coming in from the eastern Mediterranean, mainly Syrians, as refugees, and said a different approach might be needed for those coming up through the central Mediterranean route, mainly Africans, whom he described as "economic migrants."

People coming from Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan are fleeing ongoing civil wars, brutal dictatorships and famine in refugee camps.

In the west, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has said he wants a total of 160,000 refugees to be relocated around the EU from Italy, Greece and Denmark.

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2015

**End of Document**



[*This U.N. reporter had to ask George Clooney about Brad Pitt's divorce explains what happened*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS8-RSS1-JCJY-G05X-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 22, 2016 Thursday 4:45 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 382 words

**Byline:** Emily Heil

**Body**

Who was more uncomfortable during the exchange Tuesday between CNN senior United Nations reporter Richard Roth and actor George Clooney?

Clooney and his wife, human rights lawyer Amal Clooney, were participating in the U.N. roundtable on the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** convened by President Obama. Roth was doing his usual beat coverage of high-level international issues and interviewing the star for CNN. But the biggest news of the day - no, not Syrian airstrikes, but the divorce of Clooney's old pals Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie - dictated that their interview take a tabloid-y turn.

"Don't shoot me on this last question," Roth says to the actor in a clip of the exchange that CNN posted (having, it seems, cut the more substantive conversation that preceded it). He doesn't sound sheepish, exactly, but the preface indicates that he's about to divert from the serious issues at hand and he's not exactly thrilled about it. "It's a big story," he adds by way of justification. "You're friends with both of them."

Then it's Clooney's turn to look uneasy - when it becomes clear that he hasn't yet heard the news, and Roth is breaking it to him. "I didn't know that - wow." The typically unflappable Oscar-winner looks like he might need a moment. "I feel very sorry for them," Clooney finally says. "That's a sad story and unfortunate for a family. It's an unfortunate story about a family. I feel very sorry to hear that."

In an interview on Wednesday, Roth, a veteran journalist who is the network's second longest-serving employee, said he thought the divorce was a legitimate news story, and not beneath him- especially given that Jolie has been involved in U.N. refugee efforts, too. "I know what news is... and I still think both stories [refugees and the divorce] are news in this multi-media world," he said. He described the interview, which took place in a crowded hallway, where Clooney recognized him from previous interviews and stopped to talk. He held onto the Brangelina question for last, he said, because, it simply best fit the "flow" of the conversation.

Flexibility to shift from to hard news to slightly softer fare is clearly something Roth has learned in his years in the business: "You never know what will happen at U.N. General Assembly week. "

Copyright: Washington Post

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*This U.N. reporter had to ask George Clooney about Brad Pitt's divorce*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS8-KK31-JCJY-G4G5-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 22, 2016 Thursday 4:45 PM GMT

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Copyright: Washington Post

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Five practical ways you can help refugees trying to find safety in Europe; As the crisis affecting thousands of people worsens, here's what you can do*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GTY-VB41-JCJY-G1HX-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 11, 2015 Friday 12:20 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 885 words

**Byline:** Victoria Richards, Shehab Khan, Adam Withnall

**Body**

More than 350,000 of you have signed our petition for Britain to take its fair share of Europe's refugees, and it looks like David Cameron has listened.

But there is still a huge amount of work to be done before desperate people fleeing war and persecution will really feel there is a safe place for them in the UK.

As European leaders continue to disagree over the best way to deal with the growing humanitarian crisis, here is what you can do next to help at home.

Keep making your voice heard

● The Independent's petition for Britain to accept its fair share of refugees

● Accept more asylum seekers and increase support for refugee migrants in the UK

● 80 Syrian war refugees are waiting in Calais for their rightful and legal asylum in the UK

● Create a compassionate Euro-wide policy to deal with refugee migrants

● End the Calais crisis

● We are willing to house ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

● Refugees Welcome (split by postcode into local petitions)

● Resettle ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the US

<em class="bold" /> <em class="bold">Volunteer, donate, collect

● International Rescue Committee: US-based charity with opportunities to volunteer around the world including mentoring refugee families and helping them find jobs

● Refugee council: looking for Therapeutic Casework Volunteers in to support their assessments, casework and referrals to asylum seekers and refugees presenting mental wellbeing needs

● Citizens UK: a scheme where people can volunteer as much of their time or resources as they want, but especially to lobby local councils on behalf of refugees

● Calais Migrant Solidarity: organising aid from the UK to those stranded in Calais. Includes details to find local groups for clothes collections and donations here and a UK-based Facebook group

● Doctors of the World: providing care to vulnerable people, advocating for rights to health

● Music Against Borders: appealing for people to donate musical instruments to Calais

● The Jungle Library: makeshift library set up at the camp at Calais. They need more books

● 'Childhood bags': fundraising to take books, toys and warm clothes to children

● Folkestone United: organising protests, taking donated goods to Calais in September

● Avaaz.org: lobbying local councils, providing language support, housing refugees

● Migrant Offshore Aid Station: dedicated to preventing loss of life at sea

● Sawa for development and aid: working with ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Lebanon

<em class="bold" /> <em class="bold">Make a donation

Make a financial donation to a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that is doing related humanitarian work overseas. These could include:

● Save the Children: distributing essential items such as nappies, hygiene kits and food

● Red Cross Europe: providing emergency health services at central train stations

● Migrant Offshore Aid Station: dedicated to preventing migrant deaths at sea

● International Rescue Committee:  improving living conditions by setting up camps

● The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR): providing water, mosquito nets, tents, healthcare

● Refugee Action: advice about claiming asylum, the asylum process, asylum support

● World Vision: providing food, water, shelter, education and psychosocial care

● Médecins Sans Frontières: humanitarian agency which has three rescue ships in the Mediterranean

● Aylan Kurdi Fund: named in honour of the drowned child and set up within 24 hours of the horrific pictures circulating around the world. All proceeds are going to charity Hand In Hand For Syria

● Asylum Aid: provides free legal advice and representation to refugees and asylum-seekers seeking safety in the UK from persecution. They also campaign for the fair treatment of refugees in the UK

● The Aire Centre: provides information and advice throughout Europe on international human rights law, including the rights of individuals under the provisions of European Community Law

<em class="bold" /> <em class="bold">Support grassroots groups

JustGiving has received more than 2,500 donations from 32 countries for Calais migrant fundraising efforts. Here are just a few of them:

● The Worldwide Tribe in Calais: Travel blog documenting the story of the people in the Calais 'jungle' is also connected to a crowdfunding site

● Glasgow Solidarity with Calais Migrants: Diane and Bob are driving to Calais with supplies

● North East Solidarity with Calais Refugees: Buying food, bedding and warm clothing

● Side by Side: A family in Thurrock helping with basic humanitarian aid

● Association Salam: 19-year-old Tom McElholm is driving to Calais with supplies

● Hummingbird Project: Driving regularly to Calais with nurses, aid, food kitchens

● Coach and Horses Soho: raising £5,000 to give the Calais migrants a decent meal

<em class="bold"> <em class="bold" /> <em class="bold">Buy specific items for those who need help

● An Amazon wish list has been set up for people to buy specific items such as shoes and sleeping bags to be delivered to Calais as part of the appeal #KentforCalais and #HelpCalais. The truck leaves on 17 September.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Angela Merkel's coalition 'sent wrong message to outside world', say critics; Geramny's Vice-Chancellor said nation can absorb 500,000 refugees a year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW8-MXW1-F021-606N-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 8, 2015 Tuesday 9:53 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 439 words

**Byline:** Tony Paterson

**Body**

The German Chancellor Angela Merkel's ruling coalition faces the prospect of mounting discord over its open-door policy towards Syrian and other refugees after its deputy leader claimed that the country could absorb half a million migrants a year for the next few years.

The country is already on course to accept more than 800,000 refugees this year, but Sigmar Gabriel, Vice-Chancellor and the head of Ms Merkel's Social Democrat partners, said he could envisage Germany taking in many more refugees. "I believe that we could easily cope with a figure of half a million over the coming years," he told a German television interviewer.

Ms Merkel's policy of welcoming ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** has infuriated the right wing of her ruling conservative group. Horst Seehofer, the leader of the Bavarian Christian Social Union, has insisted that "no society" can cope with such huge migrant influxes over a prolonged period. His party claims that Ms Merkel has "sent completely the wrong signal" to the outside world.

Read more: Refugees in Munich greeted with food and waterGermany says it can take in 500,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** every yearTwo charts which shame UK when it comes to EU's refugee crisisEditorial: Sign The Independent's petition to welcome refugees

Such views were echoed in part by Germany's Social Democrat Foreign Minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who warned that the huge public enthusiasm for refugees could turn sour.

There was also growing frustration among the leaders of Germany's federal states. Many argued that the sum of (EURO)6bn set aside by the government on Monday to help fund the current crisis was not enough. Hannelore Kraft, the Social Democrat leader of North Rhine Westphalia - the most populous state, which is in line to accept the highest number of refugees - said: "Berlin simply does not understand the how needy the regions are." Some estimates have put the amount of funding needed to meet the immediate refugee crisis at (EURO)10bn.

In graphics: Refugees in the EU

The federal states are bracing themselves for train loads of people. In Munich, where most of the influx of an estimated 30,000 refugees have arrived over the past 10 days, much of the city's refugee accommodation close to overflowing. Authorities have been obliged to use Munich's international trade fairground - a brand new complex, about twice the size of London's Earls Court - for accommodation. But with tens of thousands of tourists also due to arrive in the city for its Oktoberfest beer festival at the end of the month, there was growing pressure to shift the refugees northwards.

Click here to sign The Independent's Change.org petition

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump's new 'Muslim ban' still does not include countries that have produced terrorists; Executive order excludes Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N1G-4N11-JCJY-G4NN-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 6, 2017 Monday 5:13 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS; Version:4

**Length:** 476 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

Donald Trump's new executive order, banning immigrants and refugees from six Muslim-majority countries, still excludes countries which sentterrorists came to the US.

The newly-worded travel bandoes not include Saudi Arabia, Egypt or the United Arab Emirates - all countries with which Mr Trump didbusiness and from where the 9/11 plane hijackers came.

At a press conference on Monday, Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the six countries were chosen for exclusion on the grounds that their governments were "unable or unwilling to provide the information we need" to vet incoming people "responsibly".

Read more

Trump signs new travel ban executive order targeting six countries

The original ban, signed late January and knocked down by a federal judge eight days later, was proposed to defend the US from terrorist attacks, despite no individual from those countries having killed a single American in a terrorist attack on US soil since 2001.

Nearly all travellers were banned under the first order for 90 days and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** were suspended indefinitely.

No Syrian refugee had even been charged with the intent to carry out an attack on US soil in more than four decades, according to a report by the Cato Institute.

Trump's "new" travel ban still excludes countries where he does business like Saudi Arabia and UAE--which actually sent the 9/11 terrorists.

- George Takei (@GeorgeTakei) March 6, 2017

In the new ban, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** will only be barred for 120 days, the same as all other refugees. Iraq has also been taken off the list, and green card holders will no longer be ensnared by the ban.

The President has ignored a report from the Department of Homeland Security which said barring people from certain countries would not reduce the terrorist threat.

Manyrecent attacks were carried out by US-born citizens, and the ban does not address white extremism like the case of Dylann Roof who killed nine African American churchgoers in 2015 in Charleston.

Read more

Nigeria warns its citizens against travel to US amid ban uncertainty

Trump to sign new travel ban executive order today excluding Iraq

This is the other travel ban that people aren't talking about

The President has stated the new executive order will start to be phased in on 16 March. The last ban was declared to start immediately because the President said he did not want "bad dudes" to have a window to still get into the US.

He has also asked for a report from various government agencies to determine the "long-term costs" of admitting and supporting refugees in the US and how he can seek to curtail those costs.

The new ban does nothing to increase vetting of travellersfrom the countries which produced the dozen terrorists who came to the US more than 17 years ago, trained to fly planes at a US institution and crashed into the Twin Towers in New York, killing more than 2,000 people.

**Load-Date:** March 6, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Muslim leaders to file lawsuit against Donald Trump's refugee ban; The Council on American-Islamic Relations said the purpose of banning refugees was to 'ban people of the Islamic faith'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRH-1B41-JCJY-G50D-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 1:17 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 489 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

The Council on American-Islamic Relations is planning on filing a lawsuit to challenge Donald Trump's ban on Muslim refugees.

Mr Trump's executive order, signed onthe same day as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, requestedthat the Department of Homeland Security imposes a 120-day blanket ban on all refugees coming from seven Muslim-Majority countries.

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** would be banned "indefinitely",but Christian applicantswould be given top priority.

CAIR's lawsuit is aimed to "challenge the constitutionality of the order which very clearly is designed to target Muslims", Lena Masri, CAIR's national litigation director, told

The Independent.

Read more

Twitter account lists Jews who died after being refused US entry

Full details of the lawsuit will be revealed on Monday.

Ms Masri said there are more than 20 Muslims behind the lawsuit and they started to prepare the case as soon as the executive order was signed.

"The American Muslim community has been the target of discriminatory policies for many years now," she said. "Generally speaking at this time the Muslim community is being attacked by this order. It's important for Americans to stand together and rise together."

There are around 3.3 million American Muslims in the US, just 1 per cent of a nationalpopulation of more than 320million.

FindTheData.org | Graphiq

The US accepted more than 38,000 Muslim immigrants in 2016, the highest number since 2002, according to the Pew Research Centre, but has taken in relatively low number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - around 12,500 - last year compared to other countries.

Mr Trump said on Friday that the US "didn't want them here", meaning radical terrorists, but his blanket ban is applied to all those attempting to flee violence, civil war and persecution.

I promise that our administration will ALWAYS have your back. We will ALWAYS be with you! pic.twitter.com/D0aOWhOhlX

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) January 27, 2017

CAIR will file its lawsuit in the US District Court of the Western District of Virginia on Monday.

"There is no evidence that refugees, the most thoroughly vetted of all people entering our nation, are a threat to national security," Ms Masri said in a statement released by CAIR.

"This is an order that is based on bigotry, not reality."

Read more

Donald Trump signs executive order to ban refugees

The Muslim country Trump isn't banning refugees from

Madeleine Albright vows to join Trump's Muslim database in solidarity

"Our First Amendment is under attack. We, as attorneys, are foot soldiers of the American Constitution and took an oath to protect all from being targeted by the government because of their faith," said lawyer Shereef Akeel, who is also co-counsel on the lawsuit.

CAIR held an emergency rally this week when it was revealed Mr Trump would sign the executive order.

"See you in court," they had promised at a rally in Washington Square in New York.

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*World news in brief*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P4Y-9CM1-F072-41DJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

August 1, 2017 Tuesday

Second Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 33

**Length:** 898 words

**Body**

WikiLeaks publishes Macron campaign emails

WikiLeaks yesterday published a searchable archive of what it said were more than 21,000 verified emails associated with key figures in the election campaign of French President Emmanuel Macron. The stolen data was originally dumped on the internet in May, on the eve of the run-off between Mr Macron and his far-right opponent Marine Le Pen. Within hours of the leak, Mr Macron's staff had said it had been targeted by a "massive and coordinated" hacking operation.

His Republic on the Move party yesterday said the mails seemed to be the same as the ones leaked on 5 May and warned that fake documents were mixed with authentic ones. "Republic on the Move calls for vigilance over these publications," it said in a statement. "Under the guise of novelty, WikiLeaks is taking over as its own the destabilisation operation from May."

The document dump came too late in the campaign to have any direct influence on the election, in part because the electoral commission warned it was a crime to republish any details from the emails before the vote. French newspapers which have pored over the documents since then said they found nothing scandalous to report. By turning the dump into a database, WikiLeaks has made the documents easily searchable for any internet user.

WikiLeaks said it was publishing the leaks now after verifying the authenticity of the email addresses. It did not say how the emails were obtained but cited a comment by a government cyber security official saying the data dump appeared to be the work of an "isolated individual", apparently playing down the theory a foreign state was involved. Reuters

Clooneys to help 3,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** go to school

George and Amal Clooney said yesterday they would help 3,000 Syrian refugee children go to school this year in Lebanon, where the UN says 200,000 children are not receiving an education after fleeing the war in neighboring Syria. The Clooney Foundation for Justice said it has teamed up with Google and HP Inc to help the UN children's agency Unicef and the Lebanese Ministry of Education to open seven so-called "second shift" schools for Syrian refugee children.

Lebanon has more than 1 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, including nearly 500,000 children. It is educating Syrian children in public schools through a "second shift" system of additional afternoon classes exclusively for them.

"We don't want to lose an entire generation because they had the bad luck of being born in the wrong place at the wrong time," said Oscar-winning actor George Clooney and international human rights lawyer Amal Clooney, who gave birth to twins last month. "Thousands of young ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are at risk - the risk of never being a productive part of society," the couple said in a statement. "Formal education can help change that." Reuters

Isis attacks Iraqi embassy in Kabul

A four-hour firefight at the Iqaqi embassy ended yesterday with the death of three Isis gunmen who had stormed the building. The attack followed a suicide bomber blowing himself up at the gates of the building at noon local time [1630 GMT]. Interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish said that two Afghan employees of the Iraqi embassy died in the attack. Three police were injured, he added. The Isis affliate in Afghanistan said only two of its followers were involved in the attack, not four as Kabul officials said, adding to the conflicting reports.

Mr Danish said that all the embassy staffers were safe but that the building had suffered extensive damage, with windows broken and several rooms badly burned. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the attack and said it was the government's responsibility to provide protection to international missions.

After Iraqi forces, backed by a US-led coalition, recaptured the city of Mosul from Isis earlier this month, the Iraqi embassy had called reporters to its offices in Kabul to express concerns that the local Isis affiliate might stage large-scale attacks elsewhere to draw away attention from the militant group's losses in Iraq. AP

10 killed in central Mexico state, including police chief

Ten people were killed in several locations in a central Mexico state, among them a police chief in one city and four members of a family in another town, authorities said yesterday. The federal Attorney General's Office said Police Chief J Santos Juarez Rocha of the city of Celaya and one of his bodyguards were found dead yesterday morning on the outskirts of the nearby city of Salamanca. The office said its Homicide Investigation Unit and Criminal Investigation Agency would be analyzing evidence to try to determine responsibility for the double homicide.

In the nearby town of Abasolo, a couple and their two adult children were executed in their home and a fifth victim was discovered outside the house, said Laura Edith Ortega, an investigator for the Guanajuato state prosecutor's office. Two other children were present but unharmed. The bodies of two teenagers were also found in separate spots in Abasolo. Ms Ortega said an investigation was underway to determine whether the seven killings in the town were connected. The 10th homicide was reported in the city of Irapuato.

Guanajuato has been plagued by increased crime recently. According to government data, the first half of 2017 saw a 20 per cent increase in killings from the same period of 2016. AP

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Trump executive order bars refugees from key Muslim countries entering the US*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5R7W-7MN1-JCS0-D3C1-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

December 24, 2017 Sunday

Second Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 48

**Length:** 520 words

**Byline:** RACHAEL REVESZ IN NEW YORK

**Body**

Donald Trump has signed two executive orders to ban refugees from entering the US and to rebuild the military. One order begins the process, in his view, of building up the armed forces, while the other is designed to prohibit radical terrorists from entering the country, but acts as a temporary, blanket ban for any refugee coming to the US.

"This is big stuff," he said, signing the order in front of a raft of cameras. It is the first act to institute a threat he first gave in December 2015 shortly after the terrorist attacks in Paris, when he said all Muslims should be banned from the country.

Muslims will be the biggest victim of the new executive order, which was reduced to only target immigrants from seven Muslim-dominated countries: Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. No new visas will be issued from these countries for 30 days. These countries are affected by conflict and terrorism, but anyone escaping persecution and death will be barred from refuge in the US.

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** will be banned "indefinitely", although an exemption in the order an remarks by Mr Trump indicate Christians from the country will still be allowed in. It already takes around two years for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to be vetted and enter the US. Refugees coming here are screened by the National CounterterrFBI, Defense and State depts, US Customs, and border protection.

"[This is a] measure to keep radical Islamic terrorists out of America. We don't want them here," said Mr Trump. He warned that the US should never forget the attacks of 9/11 or those who lost their lives in the Pentagon.

"We don't want to admit the very threats our soldiers are fighting overseas. We only want to admit those that support our country and love, deeply, our people."

It is yet to be defined how the President will carry out his proposal of "extreme vetting" and the "religious test" of incoming immigrants when the ban is lifted.

Rep Michael McCaul, the Republican and Homeland Security chairman, told CNN that Christians from Syria would not pose a terrorist threat to the US compared to Muslims.

"It seems to be they [Christians] would be top of the list," he said.

The President has been widely condemned for threatening to institute this order, which was seen as discriminatory. It was signed on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a reminder that the US barred tens of thousands of Jews from a safe haven when more than six million of their people were being murdered by Nazis.

He then signed another executive order to rebuild the military, to build "new planes, new ships, tools and resources".

In 2015, the US spent $598bn (£450bn) on the military.

"As we prepare our budget request for Congress, our military strength will be questioned by no one and neither will our dedication to peace. And we do want peace," he said.

The orders were signed while General James Mattis was being sworn in as defense secretary.

"I want to extend a very special congratulations to a great man and that's Secretary Mattis," he said. "I think he's going to lead us so brilliantly. He's a tremendous solider, always has been. He's a general's general."

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Trump executive order bars refugees from key Muslim countries entering the US*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5R7W-7MN1-JCS0-D39J-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

December 24, 2017 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 46

**Length:** 520 words

**Byline:** RACHAEL REVESZ IN NEW YORK

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**Load-Date:** December 23, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Flat-pack future; Refugee populations have long been reliant on charitable aid agencies. Could business investment from companies such as Ikea change the norm, Rachel England asks*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NN9-5KN1-F072-44MM-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

May 29, 2017 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 46

**Length:** 1372 words

**Byline:** RACHEL ENGLAND

**Body**

Last November, Ikea took a pioneering step in its already comprehensive sustainability programme. The furniture retailer decided to open production centres near Jordanian refugee camps in Amman with the aim of eventually providing employment for 200,000 disadvantaged people in the area - refugees included, both inside the city and on its outskirts.

Where many brands and retailers count promotional activities and donations to those in conflict-stricken areas among their CSR efforts, Ikea's approach implements a more long-term, sustainable model of support. But in doing this, the company has entirely turned on its head the traditional perception of refugee status. A statement released by the brand says that one of the main aims of the programme is "supporting Jordan's journey in integrating refugees with locals in the labour market through creating jobs".

The objective, then, is not to simply maintain a temporary population, but to allow a growing community and the location in which it's based to thrive and flourish - a notion that briefly touched the headlines in 2015 when Kilian Kleinschmidt, a humanitarian aid expert, told Dezeen, an architecture and design magazine, that governments need to view refugee camps as "the cities of tomorrow".

The quote was widely reported, most likely, Kleinschmidt himself notes, because it completely contradicts the "refugee narrative" to which the world has become accustomed.

"We need to get away from the idea that refugees are poor little things that need to be fed and pampered - they're capable human beings," says Kleinschmidt, who worked for 25 years for the UN and the UN High Commission for Refugees in various camps and operations worldwide. "The whole aid conversation is about victims, which is why so many Europeans think these people are a burden, and not in fact an opportunity for change or development."

Kleinschmidt applauds Ikea's Jordan initiative. "There are three billion people living in poverty, and they need jobs. It's great that a brand name as recognisable as Ikea is finally sending that signal."

He points to an initiative called ReBootKamp (RBK) as another example of a refugee-focused programme that offers a meaningful hand up. RBK provides intensive IT training to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** with the aim of turning them into high quality software engineers. There are no upfront costs or previous education requirements, women are especially encouraged to apply and all graduates are guaranteed employment upon completion of the 12-week course.

To be clear, this isn't a charitable programme, but rather one born of the age-old notion of supply and demand. Speaking to Wamda, an Middle Eastern entrepreneurial website, Hugh Bosely, the director of RBK, said securing backing for the programme was "an easy sell": "Silicon Valley stepped up to the plate and threw their whole weight behind us. We've had pledges to hire every programmer we can produce, that's how much demand there is for it."

And yet, Kleinschmidt says, there is a wariness about integrating refugee communities with technology: "Refugees are associated with poverty - the idea that you can connect them with something from the 21st century is an alien concept to many. Not only that, but again, the victim narrative would suggest doing so is exploitative in some way.

"I was visiting one of these coding classes, accompanied by some people from an NGO who felt it wasn't right for 'these poor people to be thrown into the capitalist IT industry'. How arrogant to think that these people need protection from capitalism - capitalism existed in their home countries before they were displaced, and capitalism is how jobs are created.

"We've been treating aid in the same way since the Second World War, but now the most helpful kind of aid would come in the form of attracting companies and establishing economic cycles in places they wouldn't happen organically."

In other words, helping people to help themselves, or in this context, giving them the freedom to help themselves. One area where this approach has seen great success is in Uganda's Bidi Bidi refugee camp. Uganda has an extraordinarily compassionate refugee policy, where refugees are free to work, travel and mix with the surrounding community, and families are given a plot of land on which to build a house - plus more for farming.

Instead of a temporary crisis centre, Bidi Bidi is becoming a thriving community where people will settle to make their home. The boundaries between the refugee settlement and the existing village are merging - the historical conception story of many an established European city - and the local economy is booming.

In fact, a 2016 study by the University of California Davis and the UN World Food Programme found that "refugees' purchases benefit local and national economies, and economic benefits exceed the amount of donated aid". The presence of refugees is an economic boost, not a burden.

There is, Kleinschmidt believes, a huge amount of untapped value in refugee populations: "There are many places in Europe that are like ghost towns because people have moved elsewhere - governments could put in a whole new population with opportunities to trade and work. Or at least welcome them into existing economies. There are 600,000 job vacancies in Germany: during the height of the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** it was the business associations pushing Merkel to allow new people in, people who would benefit from a new home while giving the country an economic boost. The model is win-win."

Such is the mutually beneficial nature of this model that the World Bank Finance Development Forum hosts an annual conference to discuss investment opportunities in fragile markets. More than 100 partners and 600 participants come together to push forward the sustainable development agenda in a world affected by conflict and violence. But while there can be no doubt that there's an appetite from the business world to engage disadvantaged communities, bureaucratic challenges mean a lot of the potential will never come to fruition.

"Governments are afraid of normalising refugee environments," says Kleinschmidt. "They are traditionally seen as temporary measures, and as such they are created to be temporary. Camps are poorly planned and refugees struggle to get work permits - they are being held hostage by red tape and outdated thinking."

Josephine Liebl, a policy advisor at Oxfam, agrees: "There is an argument that keeping people in one space makes providing them with access to basic services and protection easier in an emergency situation. While this is true in many cases, it is not a valid justification for restricting the movement of refugees indefinitely, or refusing to explore more innovative ways to help refugees outside of camps."

However, she notes that these 'more innovative ways' are not without their challenges, and represent a stark contrast to traditional aid approaches.

"The reasons behind investing to create refugee jobs are often murky, with a lot of unanswered questions: are retailers fuelling a race-to-the-bottom on labour rights by benefiting from lower wage work and weaker labour protections? Are they taking production away from better quality jobs? What is the wider impact of moving production centres? Are lower standard jobs being created?

"This Ikea initiative could be life-changing for people if implemented in a way that promotes and protects labour rights, and potentially an example to follow for the private sector in Jordan and other parts of the world; that is why it is important to get it right."

But changing an entrenched approach to aid, and to those in receipt of it, will not happen overnight, and there may well be lessons learned along the way, says Kleinschmidt: "People want to work. They don't want to be pitied and dependent, which is why we are seeing more and more that the most meaningful aid is initiated by business that recognises the value of people, rather than charities that see victims.

"It's a very slow transformation but aid is gradually taking on a new identity. As more governments and aid agencies move away from old-fashioned approaches and business gets more involved, the whole landscape will look very different in 10 years' time."

**Load-Date:** May 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*'Isis flag' picture that claims to show refugees attacking police goes viral - and is a lie; It's old, probably not an Isis flag and has nothing to do with refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXP-M6B1-JCJY-G37S-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 16, 2015 Wednesday 1:37 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 353 words

**Byline:** Andrew Griffin

**Body**

A picture that purports to be of refugees carrying Isis flags and attacking police has been shared widely on social media this week - but the picture is old, probably doesn't show an Isis flag, and has nothing to do with refugees.

The image has been picked up by a range of right-wing outlets, including the Conservative Post, and has been shared tens of thousands of times since. That site said it was a "new leaked picture" that "confirmed" its claims about Isis smuggling in agents among refugees.

The images confirm a theory that has taken hold among many right-wing sites - that Isis is using the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** to bring thousands of terrorists into Europe, among people who are fleeing the group.

The picture appears to have come from protests in Bonn in May 2012. The protest began as one by a then ascendant far-right political party in the country, and the Muslims in the picture were part of a counter-protest.

Other uploads were around at the same time, confirming that the picture is just over three years old.

Video of what appears to be the same protest - at an anti-Islam rally in Bonn - can be seen in the video below. The footage was uploaded in 2012, and appears to come from the same year - long before the flag took off as a widely-understood symbol of Isis.

(The flag can be seen at around 0.03, at the very left of the line.)

Those people aren't necessarily waving the flag in any way connected with Isis. As many analysts have pointed out, the organisation took on the symbol partly because it was already a well-established icon and had been used by other groups.

"They want to align themselves with other movements and place themselves in a jihadist context," Charlie Winter, a researcher at the Quilliam Foundation, told The Independent earlier this summer.

"The shahada and the Prophet's seal are important symbols that all Muslims share.

"So, by co-opting words which have nothing to do with jihadism, they [Isis] broaden themselves and try to claim ideological territory that they wouldn't be able to if they had something specific." In pictures: The best debunked myths and fake news stories

**Load-Date:** September 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*'Unite to fight against the hatred that killed Jo', says husband in moving tribute*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MGY-N601-JCS0-D1FP-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

December 25, 2016 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 81

**Length:** 803 words

**Byline:** OLIVER WRIGHT

**Body**

MPs from across the political spectrum last night set aside their differences to pay tribute to one of Parliament's most promising young MPs who was killed in the street in her constituency. Her suspected killer is a man police are investigating for possible far-right links.

Jo Cox, who helped spearhead the campaign to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, was shot three times outside her constituency advice surgery in Birstall, West Yorkshire.

The suspect, who was arrested at the scene, was named as Thomas Mair, aged 52. He was reported to have shouted "Britain First" during an attack in which he fired three shots from close range while stabbing the MP with a knife.

Security sources told The Independent that police were investigating Mair's possible interest in far-right politics and pro-apartheid South Africa.

David Cameron and Jeremy Corbyn led the tributes to Ms Cox, a mother of two young children, who had only been elected as an MP in 2015. She is the first MP to have been fatally attacked while in office since Ian Gow was killed by a Provisional IRA car bomb in 1990.

Both sides in the European Referendum campaign cancelled events due to be held as a mark of respect. Flags across Whitehall were lowered to half-mast. Her husband Brendan said the family was going to work "every moment of our lives" to "fight against the hate that killed Jo".

He added: "Jo believed in a better world and she fought for it everyday of her life with an energy, and a zest for life that would exhaust most people. She would have wanted two things above all else to happen now: one, that our precious children are bathed in love and two, that we all unite to fight against the hatred that killed her. Hate doesn't have a creed, race or religion, it is poisonous."

Mr Corbyn said Ms Cox died "doing her public duty at the heart of our democracy. In the coming days, there will be questions to answer about how and why she died. But for now all our thoughts are with Jo's husband Brendan and their two young children. They will grow up without their mum, but can be immensely proud of what she did, what she achieved and what she stood for."

Mr Cameron added: "She had a great track record of caring about refugees and had taken a big interest in how we can look after ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and do the right thing in our world. She was a star for her constituents, a star in Parliament and a star right across the House."

Police refused to speculate on what motivation lay behind the attack but witnesses reported hearing her attacker shouting "Britain First", which may be a reference to the far-right BNP splinter group. Ms Cox had been a high-profile campaigner for the rights of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and was fighting to force the Government to take in more asylum seekers.

"He was shouting 'Britain First' when he was doing it," said Graeme Howard. "He was pinned down by two police officers and she was taken away in an ambulance."

Clarke Rothwell, who runs a cafe near the murder scene, added: "He was shouting 'Put Britain first'. He shouted it about two or three times." Britain First is the name of a far-right BNP splinter group. It issued a statement saying it was "not involved and would never encourage behaviour of this sort".

Mair's house was sealed off by police, who were guarding the property as forensic officers worked in the garden. Neighbours said he had lived there for more than 30 years - on his own for the last two decades since the deaths of his mother and grandmother. "He's lived there longer than me and I've lived here since 1975," said one. "I still can't believe it. He's the last guy I would have thought of. He likes gardening. He did a lot of people's gardens round here."

Politicians from across all major parties expressed their shock at Ms Cox's untimely death. Theresa May said Ms Cox was one of the "brightest and most popular" MPs and the pain her family and friends are suffering is "unimaginable".

"It is entirely appropriate that all campaigning for the referendum has been suspended. All of us are united in our deep sadness at the loss of one of our brightest and most popular Westminster colleagues."

The former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who knew Ms Cox well when she worked with his wife Sarah, said: "Jo Cox was the most vivacious, personable, dynamic and committed friend you could ever have. Whenever you talked to her, the compassion in her eyes and the commitment in her soul shone through. Sarah and I were privileged to work with Jo and her husband Brendan over many years and in her tireless efforts on behalf of poor and desolate children and mothers. She went to some of the most dangerous places in the world. The last place she should have been in danger was in her home town."

The Ukip leader Nigel Farage said: "Deeply saddened to hear that Jo Cox has died. Sincerest condolences to her family."

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian girl campaigns against child marriage from her refugee camp in Jordan; 'Girls from my home have their future lost or destroyed, this is something I can't accept. I have to fight for women's rights'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JK1-4TG1-JCJY-G2GW-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 19, 2016 Tuesday 3:53 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 446 words

**Byline:** Charlie Atkin

**Body**

Omaima Hoshan first became concerned when her classmates were started leaving school as young as 12-years-old.

"I started hearing about girls as young as 12 or 13 getting married. They would come to the school to say goodbye. I remember thinking they were making a big mistake, even before I knew the facts," she recalls.

Omaima, a refugee herself at Jordan's Za'atari camp after fleeing Syria in 2012, felt compelled to take action when one of those girls was her best friend.

"We were always together, and she was one of the best students in our class. She didn't want to get married, but her parents thought it was the best option for her." Omaima would never see her again.

Read more

Child marriage chart reveals girls can wed at 12 in some parts of the US- as lawmakers battle to raise age to 16

'Child marriage' filmed in Surrey for Unicef campaign against underage weddings

Six-year-old girl with learning difficulties forced into child marriage

Video of child bride in Lebanon shines spotlight on 37,000 child marriages every day

Since that day the 15-year-old refugee has been campaigning against child marriage, encouraging her friends and classmates to share the risks of the practice with their parents.

As an outreach volunteer, she also hosts drawing and acting workshops in the hopes of communicating better with those who may intend to marry while underage. Several have already abandoned their plans to marry young.

The number of marriages involving someone below the age of 18 in Syria stood at 13% before the war. This figure has risen to 32% among ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living in Jordan.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees suggests the cause of this rise lies in families' struggle to cope with the challenges of life inside refugee camps.

"While there is a cultural tradition of early marriage in some parts of Syria, including rural areas of Dara'a province, where the majority of refugees in Za'atari are from, various factors have led to its increased prevalence among ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Jordan."

"These include the more challenging living conditions, and the precarious economic situation of some families, whichencourage them to marry off their daughters to ease their financial responsibilities."

In Jordan it is illegal to marry under the age of 18, however Shari'a judges can validate marriages for girls from the age of 15, 'provided the child's best interests are taken into account' according to the UNHCR. Illegal marriages conducted by local sheikhs also take place however, involving girls aged 14 or even younger.

Omaima still hopes to marry in the future. "But only on my terms," she says. "After I've finished my education and been to university."

**Load-Date:** April 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Jordan's King Abdullah warns Syrian refugee 'dam will burst' if rich nations don't take fair share; Oxfam has released a new analysis of how much rich countries are doing to meet their 'fair share' of the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J0J-PGT1-JCJY-G1S7-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 2, 2016 Tuesday 9:56 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 489 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

The king of Jordan has warned his country could stop taking refugees from Syria if it is not offered more support by the international community.

Jordan says it is already hosting 1.27 million of the more than 4 million people who have fled Syria since the start of its civil war, and King Abdullah said the country was reaching "boiling point".

He said only half of the hundreds of thousands of Syrian children in Jordan had been given school places, and said hospitals and jobs were also seeing unbearable pressure.

Read more

Kremlin 'prolonging' war in Syria by bolstering Assad regime

He told the BBC: "Sooner or later, I think, the dam is going to burst." Jordan has been asked by the UN to take in those fleeing conflict in the region for decades. "For the first time, we can't do it any more," he said.

King Abdullah was speaking as Oxfam released a new analysis of the contributions to solving the refugee crisis from some of the richest countries in Europe and the West.

The charity analysed whether rich nations were doing their "fair share" both in terms of offering refugee places and donating funds.

Its study corroborated King Abdullah's claim that the international community is not doing enough - finding that rich countries are only taking 28 per cent of the minimum number of refugees they should be.

The UK was highlighted as particularly underperforming, meeting just 23 per cent of its suggested refugee intake. It was nonetheless noted that Britain and the Netherlands were among the most generous nations financially, while Qatar and Saudi Arabia have significantly reduced funding.

Oxfam found that While Australia, France and Russia have increased their direct intervention in the conflict, this was not met with a corresponding commitment to international appeals. Russia provided just one per cent of its fair share to the appeals linked to the crisis in 2015, it found.

Read more

Kremlin 'prolonging' war in Syria by bolstering Assad regime

Malala calls for $1.4bn education fund for Syrian refugee children

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** found working in Next and H&M factories

The only way to ensure Isis is beaten in Iraq is to defeat it in Syria

Mark Goldring, Oxfam GB Chief Executive said: "The world is failing the people of Syria. Countries must do more to help in Syria, in the region and in resettling the most vulnerable." Britain specifically "can and should do more", Mr Goldring said.

This week, the UN is seeking £5.4 billion in funding to provide aid for 22.5 million people in Syria and neighbouring countries, and King Abdullah said it was time for Jordan to be supported by the rest of the world.

"This week is going to be very important for Jordanians to see, is there going to be help - not only for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, but for their own future as well," he said.

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Republican presidential candidates sound as if they're declaring war on Muslims of every hue - and are in danger of play into jihadists' hands; Out of America: Theirreaction to the Paris attacks is exactly the sort of clash of civilisations that will allow Isisto thrive*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HF2-MT91-F021-616Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 21, 2015 Saturday 9:08 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1172 words

**Byline:** Rupert Cornwell

**Body**

Here are two directly related thoughts about America in the wake of the ghastly Islamic State (Isis) attacks in Paris. First, Republican scaremongering about ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** is not only a disgrace to the US and everything the country likes to think it stands for, but actually plays into the hands of the terrorist proto-state. Second, steel yourself to the fact that Donald Trump may well be the party's presidential nominee next year.

Why is it that the US can part company with sanity on such occasions? Remember how Jews fleeing Nazi Germany in the late 1930s were kept out on the grounds they might be communists. Or how Japanese-Americans were rounded up and interned during the Second World War; or how the country fell for McCarthyism and the Red Scare in the early Cold War. Here we go again.

Read more

Donald Trump claims eight ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** could be 'Isis'

Republicans, who control Congress, are the main culprits, but last week dozens of minority Democrats also backed a House of Representatives bill that would effectively halt immigration from Syria. The measure still has to pass the Senate, and then survive a promised presidential veto. But the message is clear. And, even if it wasn't, then the words of sundry Republican presidential candidates have dispelled all remaining doubts.

Trump suggests a national database to track all Muslims in the US and mused about shutting down mosques. Ben Carson, his closest rival, likens jihadists among Muslims to rabid dogs in the canine population: "It doesn't mean you hate all dogs... but you're putting your intellect into motion." Intellect? Meanwhile, Chris Christie, the governor of New Jersey who passes as a grown-up in the Republican field, vows to let no Syrians in, not even "orphans under age five".

In comparison, the much-reviled George W Bush comes across as a saint. Rightly, the younger Bush is criticised for the epic geostrategic blunder of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, which he claimed had been made necessary by 9/11. We forget, however, that just six days after that deadliest terrorist plot of the modern era - with a death toll more than 20 times that of Paris - Bush went to the main mosque in Washington DC with a message of conciliation. His aim was to prevent a violent backlash against American Muslims. He quoted the Koran, and described Islam as a religion of peace that had been betrayed by the perpetrators of 9/11.

That now seems light years ago. The Republican candidates sound as if they're declaring war on Muslims of every hue. Some talk of a struggle between Christians and Muslims; others propose that only Christians fleeing the Syrian inferno be admitted. All of this evokes the "clash of civilisations" that Isis, on the defensive on its own territory, seeks to foment elsewhere. The group would like nothing more than repression of Islam in countries such as the US, guaranteeing countless new recruits to the cause.

The hysteria overlooks the fact that the refugee vetting system already in place works pretty well. Since 9/11, around 785,000 refugees have been allowed into the US. Of these, just three have been arrested for terrorism-related offences, none of them involving plots on American soil. Yet we now have 27 of the country's 50 governors, all but one of them Republican, promising not to let any ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** into their states.

Read more

Obama accuses Republicans of acting like 'recruiters for Isis'

Texas Republican lawmaker calls for Isis websites to be 'shut down'

Republican governors are refusing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** after Paris attacks

Muslim journalist shuts down Fox News pundit

Syrian Paris attacks survivor defends refugees following US House vote

Fox news anchor wants to turn away refugees in a 'good-hearted nature'

What Americans thought of Jewish refugees on the eve of World War II

Also overlooked is the vastly different situation of the US. Washington DC is far harder to reach from the Middle East than Paris, and America's Arab and Muslim citizens are better integrated (and more prosperous) than their French or British counterparts. The real danger is not that Isis jihadists will hide among refugees, as purportedly did one of the Paris attackers, it is that jihadists who are already citizens of countries such as Britain and France will arrive in the US as tourists or students.

About the only thing to be said in the Republicans' defence is that they are filling a vacuum. Paris has not brought out the best in Barack Obama. The President has come across as aloof and almost uninterested, reserving his greatest energy to score political points off the Republicans, barely disguising his irritation at those who have the temerity to disagree.

By stirring up visions of a civilisational war, Trump is arguably the best thing that's happened to Isisin a while. And Isis may be the best thing that's happened to Trump

President Obama is right that America should not send a land army to Syria. But, for better or worse, America is expected to lead at such moments. Manifestly it is not leading. Instead the French, those "cheese-eating surrender monkeys" of yesteryear, are being showered with praise here for their forceful response. President François Hollande will doubtless receive a hero's welcome when he visits Washington on Tuesday to drum up support for a grand "war" alliance against Isis.

Of 785,000 refugees admitted since 9/11, just three have been arrested for terror offences (Getty)

A more sinister beneficiary is Trump. No more can you dismiss him as a flash in the pan. For four straight months he has topped the polls. Were any mainstream candidate in his position, the pundits would already be declaring the nomination battle virtually over. Instead, they wait for a collapse that never comes. Outbursts, insults and untruths that would sink another candidate have no effect. The Republican great and good cling to a belief that voters will wake up to Trump before it's too late. It hasn't happened yet.

The carnage in Paris, coupled with the probability of more such attacks, is helping Trump. His lead if anything is increasing, while Carson, whose vacuous ignorance of foreign policy has been brutally exposed, appears to be fading. Trump may be no less ignorant. But, as with his diatribes against immigration, his vow to "bomb the s\*\*\*" out of Isis and its oilfields is exactly what his audiences wants to hear.

Failure to do so, in the gospel according to Donald, is a sign of America's global decline that he intends to reverse. The more measured plans of rivals are buried in the bombast. And so, a perverse community of interest is born. By stirring up visions of a civilisational war, Trump is arguably the best thing that's happened to Isisin a while. And Isis may be the best thing that's happened to Trump.

**Load-Date:** November 21, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Investigation launched after bodies of two men thought to be migrants found inside transit case in Staffordshire warehouse; Police called to boiler manufacturers Ferroli after the bodies were discovered by workmen*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HDD-91R1-JCJY-G4BF-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 18, 2015 Wednesday 6:33 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 508 words

**Byline:** Dean Kirby

**Body**

An investigation has been launched into the death of two men thought to be migrants after their bodies were found inside a transit crate in a warehouse.

Police were called to Italian-owned boiler manufacturers Ferroli in Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, after the bodies were discovered by workmen.

The wooden crate was part of a consignment of boilers that left northern Italy on 5 October and entered the UK by ferry from Dunkirk to Dover three days later.

Detectives say it arrived at the warehouse the same day and remained untouched until workers became suspicious due to the crate's "unpleasant smell and appearance" on 17 November.

They found the bodies after opening the crate and contacted the police. Both bodies - believed to be men under 30 - were taken to Royal Stoke Hospital for post-mortem examinations.

The warehouse was cordoned off and forensics officers were called to the scene. Staffordshire Police has launched an investigation into their deaths.

It is believed they were helped into the crate by a third person before it arrived in the UK.

Detective Chief Constable Dave Giles, who is leading the investigation, said: "It is apparent both men had been dead for some time.

"Based on the information available this time, the men are likely to be migrants who had secreted themselves in a wooden transit crate to enable their entry into the UK.

"We are almost certain they were helped to conceal themselves amongst the delivery load by a third party.

"In view of this, we are treating the deaths as suspicious and will be carrying out a thorough investigation into the circumstances.

"Our priorities are to identify the bodies and repatriate them to their bereaved families and also to identify anyone who is involved in facilitating the illegal movement of people into the UK.

"It is likely this investigation will take some time and will require close partnership working with colleagues from the National Crime Agency, Border Force and Immigration Enforcement.

Read more

Support slumps for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Britain after Paris attacks

Coventry leads the way as a city of sanctuary for refugees

First planeload of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to arrive in Glasgow next week

Dutch PM stands in for David Cameron at Malta refugee crisis talks

"This is clearly a tragic incident. Our thoughts are with the men, who must have been extremely uncomfortable in their final moments, and their as yet untraced families and friends, who will undoubtedly be very concerned having not heard from their loved ones for considerable time.

"We are treating the men with the utmost respect and dignity, and will continue to do so.

"Tackling organised crime and protecting vulnerable people are key priorities for Staffordshire Police."

Ferroli manufactures domestic and commercial boilers and was founded in Italy in 1955. It now operates in 14 countries in Europe and Asia. The company was unavailable for comment.

**Load-Date:** November 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Scottish island Bute to welcome UK's first refugees with screening of It's a Wonderful Life; The island will welcome 15 Syrian refugee families including around 50 children*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HCY-9DM1-JCJY-G2RW-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 16, 2015 Monday 11:55 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 521 words

**Byline:** Alexandra Sims

**Body**

The Scottish island of Bute, set to receive some of the UK's first refugees, will stage a community screening of the Christmas classic

It's a Wonderful Life

to welcome the new arrivals.

The island, which has a population of 6,300, will welcome 15 Syrian refugee families in the following weeks, including around 50 children,

the Guardian

reports.

The community film screening of the yuletide favourite will take place on 13 December, hosted by a cinema in the town of Rothesay.

The event has reportedly sold out and the proceeds raised will fund basic amenities for the refugees.

The first UK charter flight of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** arrived in Glasgow last week,

Press Association reports.

The Home Office confirmed it has received offers to house refugees from more than 45 local authorities, including 17 in Scotland, which have aimed to take in as many as possible before Christmas.

More than a thousand refugees are expected in Scotland and they will be dispersed throughout west central areas of the country.

To reach their new homes, at the foot of the Argyll peninsula, the families will undertake a 30 minute journey from Glasgow to Gourock, followed by an hour-long ferry trip.

Read more

Germany imposes restrictions on ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in surprise U-turn

The village that shows the reality behind Merkel's open door policy

EU expects another 3 million refugees to arrive before end of 2016

'Airbnb for refugeees' started by German couple spreads around world

Despite some minor contention, the reaction from locals to the island's new arrivals has been overwhelmingly positive.

Craig Borland, editor of local paper

The Buteman

, said in a column: "I want Bute to be a place where people who come here with little more than the clothes they are standing in can feel safe and at home."

Council Leader, Councillor Dick Walsh, said: "We have a moral duty to help. We cannot sit back and do nothing while these poor people try desperately to escape war torn countries, risking their lives and their family's lives in the process.

"If we can help just 20 people, then that's 20 people who will have the opportunity of a better life."

Aidan Canavan, owner of Bute Brewery, which will provide mulled wine at the festive fundraising event, told the

Guardian

he already has plans for a further community event: "I can't wait to taste Syrian food. Once they're settled in, I want to ask them to have a Syrian food night in the church hall."

An event in Rothesay last month invited island residents to suggest ways in which they might be able to help some of the refugee families, prompting the Argyll and Bute community planning partnership to set up a "skills bank" to identify local people who can teach English, translate and simply befriend the refugees.

The council has set up a Refugee Resettlement Group, which has made arrangements for where the families will live.

**Load-Date:** November 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Scottish island Bute to welcome UK's first refugees with screening of It's a Wonderful Life; The island will welcome 15 Syrian refugee families including around 50 children*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HCY-9DM1-JCJY-G2RX-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Load-Date:** November 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Politicians across divide pay tribute to 'star' MP*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K1H-89J1-JCS0-D1BH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

June 17, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 802 words

**Byline:** OLIVER WRIGHT POLITICAL EDITOR

**Body**

MPs from across the political spectrum last night set aside their differences to pay tribute to one Parliament's most promising young MPs who was killed in the street in her constituency. Her suspected killer is a man police are investigating for possible far-right links.

Jo Cox, who helped spearhead the campaign to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, was shot three times outside her constituency advice surgery in Birstall, West Yorkshire.

The suspect, who was arrested at the scene, was named locally as Thomas Mair aged 52. He was reported to have shouted "Britain First" during an attack in which he fired three shots from close range while at the same time stabbing the MP with a knife.

Security sources told The Independent that police were investigating Mair's possible interest in far right politics and pro-apartheid South Africa.

David Cameron and Jeremy Corbyn led the tributes to Ms Cox, a mother of two young children, who had only been elected as an MP in 2015.

Ms Cox is the first MP to have been fatally attacked while in office in more than quarter of a century.

Both sides in the European Referendum campaign cancelled events due to be held today (FRI) as a mark of respect. Flags across Whitehall were lowered to half mast.

Her husband Brendan said the family was going to work "every moment of our lives" to "fight against the hate that killed Jo".

Jo believed in a better world and she fought for it everyday of her life with an energy, and a zest for life that would exhaust most people," he said.

She would have wanted two things above all else to happen now, one that our precious children are bathed in love and two, that we all unite to fight against the hatred that killed her.

Hate doesn''t have a creed, race or religion, it is poisonous."

Mr Corbyn said Ms Cox died "doing her public duty at the heart of our democracy".

"In the coming days, there will be questions to answer about how and why she died. But for now all our thoughts are with Jo's husband Brendan and their two young children. They will grow up without their mum, but can be immensely proud of what she did, what she achieved and what she stood for."

Mr Cameron added: "She had a great track record of caring about refugees and had taken a big interest in how we can look after ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and do the right thing in our world. She was a star for her constituents, a star in Parliament and a star right across the House."

Police refused to speculate on what motivation lay behind the attack but witnesses reported hearing her attacker shouting Britain First, which may be a reference to the far right BNP splinter group.

Ms Cox had been a high profile campaigner for the rights of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and was fighting to force the Government to take in more asylum seekers.

"He was shouting Britain First when he was doing it," said 38 year Graeme Howard.

"He was pinned down by two police officers and she was taken away in an ambulance."

Clarke Rothwell, who runs a cafe near the murder scene, added: He was shouting ''put Britain first''. He shouted it about two or three times.

Britain First is the name of a far-Right BNP splinter group. It issued a statement saying it was not involved and would never encourage behaviour of this sort.

Mair''s house was sealed off by police who were guarding the property as forensic officers worked in the garden.

Neighbours said he had lived there for more than 30 years -on his own for the last two decades since the deaths of his mother and grandmother. He''s lived there longer than me and I''ve lived here since 1975." Said one.

I still can''t believe it. He''s the last guy I would have thought of. He likes gardening.

He did a lot of people''s gardens round here."

Politicians from across all major parties expressed their shock at Ms Cox's untimely death.

Theresa May said Ms Cox was one of the brightest and most popular MPs and the pain her family and friends are suffering is unimaginable.

It is entirely appropriate that all campaigning for the referendum has been suspended," All of us are united in our deep sadness at the loss of one of our brightest and most popular Westminster colleagues.

The former Prime Minister Gordon Brown who know Ms Cox well when she worked with his wife Sarah said: Jo Cox was the most vivacious, personable, dynamic and committed friend you could ever have. Whenever you talked to her, the compassion in her eyes and the commitment in her soul shone through.

Sarah and I were privileged to work with Jo and her husband Brendan over many years and in her tireless efforts on behalf of poor and desolate children and mothers. She she went to some of the most dangerous places in the world. The last place she should have been in danger was in her home town."

The Ukip leader Nigel Farage said: Deeply saddened to hear that Jo Cox has died. Sincerest condolences to her family.

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: More than a million people entered Europe by sea in 2015 as thousands continue to arrive every day; The future for asylum seekers arriving on Europe's shores looks ever less certain as countries tighten laws*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HR9-P4V1-JCJY-G0W9-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 30, 2015 Wednesday 9:52 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 517 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

More than a million refugees have reached Europe so far this year by sea alone as migration continues on a scale not seen since the Second World War.

The vast majority were packed into flimsy dinghys sent from Turkey to Greek islands before starting the long journey through the Balkans, figures fromthe United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) show.

More than 3,700 migrants and asylum seekers have died in their desperate attempts to cross the Mediterranean and Aegean seas and as movement continues through the winter, aid agencies say storms are certain to claim more victims.

United Nations data showed that just under half of the refugees arriving by sea in Europe in 2015 were Syrian

On the holiday island of Lesbos, which has received almost 500,000 people as the main landing site in Europe this year, continues to see around 2,000 people a day arriving on its shores.

Read more

No end in sight for terrorism or the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** fleeing to safety

Czech President describes wave of refugees as 'an organised invasion'

Britain turning away majority of refugees fleeing Afghanistan war

One million and counting: Europe reflects on the year of refugees

But as conflict, persecution and poverty continues to drive people to risk their lives in the hope of a safer future, many European nations are moving to tighten asylum rules, making the end of refugees' journeys less certain than ever.

The Norwegian government is calling for restrictions, while Sweden has introduced mandatory passport checks and Germany backtracked on Angela Merkel's pledge to welcome ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** with a package of asylum controls.

Asylum seekers sent back

Just under half of the refugees arriving by sea this year are Syrian, with a fifth coming from Afghanistan and the next largest groups being Iraqis, Eritreans, Pakistanis and Nigerians.

The UNHCR is among the aid agencies calling for a safe route to Europe for refugees in desperate need of international protection, saying that every year their journeys take a "devastating toll on human life".

A spokesperson described the initial reaction to the crisis as "chaotic" as countries in the Balkans applied varying asylum rules inconsistently to block people from certain nationalities and sporadically close borders.

But the continent's response is now "taking shape" with UN co-ordination and staff from international aid agencies and charities along the long route to western Europe.

António Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said more still needed to be done to provide adequate reception facilities at points of transit, and to properly screen arrivals to separate those in need of protection.

"As anti-foreigner sentiments escalate in some quarters, it is important to recognise the positive contributions that refugees and migrants make to the societies in which they live and also honour core European values: protecting lives, upholding human rights and promoting tolerance and diversity," he added.

**Load-Date:** December 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: More than a million people enter Europe by sea in 2015 as thousands continue to arrive every day; The future for asylum seekers arriving on Europe's shores looks ever less certain as countries tighten laws*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HR9-P4V1-JCJY-G0W8-00000-00&context=1519360)

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December 30, 2015 Wednesday 9:14 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 517 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

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**Load-Date:** December 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Obama says US must not turn its back on Syria refugees; His comments at G20 in Turkey came after senior Republicans said the US should stop accepting refugees from Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HD0-W8X1-F021-62M6-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 16, 2015 Monday 9:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 481 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

Barack Obama has said the US had to do its part to take refugees from Syria and said it was important not to simply equate the Paris attacks with Islam.

"The overwhelming majority of victims of terrorism....are Muslims. ISIL does not represent Islam, it is not representative in any way of the attitudes of the overwhelming majority of Muslims," he said, speaking at the G20 summit in Turkey.

"We also have to remember that many of these refugees are victims of terrorism themselves. That's why they're fleeing. Slamming the door in their faces would be a betrayal of our values."

Mr Obama, who also claimed Muslims needed to do more to ensure young people were "not infected" with the beliefs of extremists, spoke after several political leaders had suggested reducing the number of refugees from Syria. He also ruled out sending US ground troops to confront Isis.

I just signed an Executive Order instructing state agencies to take all available steps to stop the relocation of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to LA.

- Gov. Bobby Jindal (@BobbyJindal) November 16, 2015

The US has vowed to accept 10,000 Syrians by the end of next year - a modest figure compared to the numbers being resettled by many nations.

But some have said the US should shut its doors. The Republicangovernors of more than a dozen states - among themLouisiana, Texas, Alabama, Indiana, Arkansasand Michigan - have said they would not allow ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in their states.

Donald Trump on Monday said he thought it was time to consider the surveillance of mosques."You can't let them in because it would be one of the great Trojan horses," he said of the refugees.

Meanwhile, two other Republican presidential candidates, Jeb Bush and Ted Cruz, have said that any US assistance to Middle Eastern refugees should focus primarily on Christians fleeing persecution.

The Obama administration has said all refugees underwent thorough screening. Yet the president said it was wrong to impose a "religious test".

Read more

French official calls for 'dissolution of mosques where hate preached'

Where does Isis get its money and arms?

Italian police hunt Paris attack suspect driving black Seat vehicle

"That's shameful. That's not American. That's not who we are," he said.

Republican opposition to accepting more refugees from Syria has become more strident since it emerged that a Syrian passport, bearing the name Ahmed Almuhamed, was found near the remains of a suicide bomber at Paris' Stade de France on Friday night.

Mother Jones

magazine said the passport was used by a refugee who entered Greece just six weeks ago, stoking fears that Isismembers may be using the refugee crisis as cover. But Syrian passports, both stolen and forged, are popular on the black market, and it is unknown if Mr Almuhamed himself was the bomber.

**Load-Date:** November 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Aylan's life was full of fear - in death, he is part of 'humanity washed ashore'; Eventually the time came for him to cross two short miles on the Aegean Sea*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV0-V3D1-JCJY-G0VG-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 3, 2015 Thursday 7:29 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 480 words

**Byline:** Zia Weise

**Body**

There are no beaches in Kobani, just bombs. From the Syrian town besieged by Isis, Aylan Kurdi and his brother fled. For the three short years of his life, Aylan had apparently only known fear.

Europe, and the sanctuary it can offer those fleeing Syria's civil war, was the goal of Aylan's family. After travelling several hundred miles through Turkey, eventually the time came for Aylan to cross the two short miles on the Aegean Sea to the Greek island of Kos. Thousands of others have made similar crossings - it is considered less fraught with danger than other refugee routes.

Wearing a bright red T-shirt and shorts, Aylan took to the sea with his family. At least 20 left the beach on Wednesday in two boats from Akyarlar on the Bodrum peninsula.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

Soon, the vessels capsized and at least 12 drowned, including five children. Aylan, his brother Galip, five, and his mother, Rihan, 35, never reached Europe. They were all found on the beach in Bodrum, waves lapping against their heads. Aylan was face down in the sea. His body was eventually picked up by an ashen-faced Turkish police officer, his limp limbs cradled gently.

Further along the beach, the meagre belongings of the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** washed up in the surf. Three other children drowned, seven were rescued and two reached the shore in life jackets. At the morgue in Bodrum's state hospital, the boys' surviving relatives broke down in tears after identifying the bodies, reported the Turkish news agency Dogan.

Read more: Sign The Independent's petition to welcome refugeesNumber of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** Britain has taken would fit on Tube trainIf these images don't change Europe's attitude, what will?

The second vessel to leave Bodrum was carrying six people and capsized soon after setting off, the Turkish coastguard said. One woman and three children drowned. It is thought Aylan was on the second boat. There were claims last night that hiring a dingy from Bodrum to travel to Kos can cost up to (EURO)1,000 (£735). Local restaurants are said to feed the refugees before they travel.

Thousands are making the journey from Turkey to Greece's easternmost islands each day. The majority are Syrians fleeing the war in their homeland. Others are from Afghanistan or Iraq. So far this year, the number of them crossing the Mediterranean has exceeded 300,000, with 200,000 landing in Greece, the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR said.

The short distances of the Aegean Sea are often safer than the deadly crossing from Libya to Italy. More than 2,500 people have died trying to cross the Mediterranean this year, according to the UNHCR. For many, the images symbolised Europe's failure to address the refugee crisis on its shores. The hashtag "KiyiyaVuranInsanlik" - "humanity washed ashore" - became the most talked-about topic among Turkish Twitter users.

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*By failing to educate child refugees, we are creating the extremists of the future; Right now, 2.8 million Syrian children and between 50 and80 per cent of the 360,000 school-aged refugee children in Lebanonare out of school - even though the biggest single thing we can to stem the tide of extremism is to educate our children*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K8V-K921-JCJY-G0F6-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 21, 2016 Thursday 5:24 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 792 words

**Byline:** Hanan Al Hroub

**Body**

The fight against terrorism is expected to betop of the agenda when the 21 countries comprising the Arab Leaguemeet next week.The biggest single thing we can to stem the tide of extremism is to provide the world's children with an education - but the prospects of refugee children are being blighted by a lack of schooling, meaning they are more likely to become the extremists of the future.

The international refugee crisis has forced more than 60 million people from their homes. Five years on from the start of the Syrian conflict and the Arab Spring, men, women and children are still dying in large numbers on their terrible journeys to find a new home. And those that reach safety are often still denied the basics of healthcare and education.

Growing up in a refugee camp in Bethlehem taught me what it is like to have a disrupted education. The average length of displacement for a refugee is now 17 years: this means that some refugee children will spend their whole school careers in camps. That is why it is so difficult to witness the poor educational provision for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and the lack of international support.

Aid agencies and international organisations have calculated that $638 million is required this year to provide an education for refugee children worldwide. So far just a quarter - $164m - has been given.

Right now, 2.8 million Syrian children are out of school due to the destruction of schools and the displacement of children and their teachers.In neighbouring Lebanon, 50 to 80 per cent of 360,000 school-aged refugee children are out of school, and the same is true of Turkey's estimated two million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.Despite this, schools in both countries have to run double shifts and evening classes because they are so overwhelmed by the newcomers.

Education in refugee camps is also seriously overstretched. In Jordan's Zaatari camp, class sizes of over 100 are common.We must urgently hire more teachers, train them to a higher standard, and find ways of helping them overcome the inevitable language barriers. Resources tend to be focused on primary teaching, but it is important to providesupport for older children, who often have to abandon their studies to provide for their families.

Most importantly of all, we must remember that these are traumatised children. Before we can focus on writing or mathematics we need to give them the emotional and psychological support to help them cope with their hellish experiences, and to avoid repeating the violence they have witnessed. In total, 79 per cent of refugee children have experienced a death in the family, while nearly half display symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder - 10 times the usual prevalence in children.

Read more

I'm already tired of the 'lessons' of Chilcot

My own children were deeply affected by the violence they witnessed in Palestine. This inspired me to help others who have been through similar experiences. I now teach in a school where most pupils are displaced young children and violence is a common feature of life. They find that school provides a safe haven in which to build peace, trust, and respect. In the classroom, we address how displacement affects them and work around it through play and teamwork. Similar approaches will benefit refugee children all across the world.

We must also think of the burdens that have been placed on the school systems of host countries, which also jeopardises the quality of education for existing pupils and the new arrivals. Last year, UN agencies, the World Bank and other donors provided 200,000 free school places in Lebanon for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, but this needs to be extended to Jordan and Turkey. These countries' budgets are already stretched beyond capacity, and, realistically, help can only come from international donors.

Thousands of child migrants face uncertain future in US

The wheels of diplomacy are turning far too slowly for the needs of refugee children. The rhetoric surrounding this issue focuses on complexity - for instance the dilemmas of whether by giving people sanctuary, we are encouraging others to risk their lives and the slow progress in securing international agreement on resettlement. But the complexity has become an excuse for inaction. We need stronger funding commitments from Governments and aid agencies right now. $474 million - the shortfall in funding for educating refugee children - is not a large sum if Governments act together.

A child is out of school is not just a tragedy for that child.It makes us all weaker and more vulnerable.

Hanan Al Hroub is the 2016 Winner of the Global Teacher Prize, awarded by the Varkey Foundation. She teaches at Samiha Khalil High School in the Palestinian city of al-Bireh, near Ramallah in central West Bank

**Load-Date:** July 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The one chart that shows how Britain won't help refugees who have travelled to Europe; Britain is not taking part in the quota system*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXH-0F61-F021-64N1-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 14, 2015 Monday 12:33 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 500 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

Huge numbers of refugees have travelled from the Middle East to southern Europe, overwhelming the economies of Greece, Hungary and Italy.

The European Commission has proposed that 120,000 refugees in these three countries be redistributed to other members states to spread the burden of housing and feeding them.

Most EU countries say they will take part in the scheme: but Britain has refused.

Although David Cameron has said the UK will now take 4,000 refugees a year from Syria, he has previously ruled out taking anyone who has already entered the EU.

Despite being in better economic shape than most of its neighbours, Britain has used its 'opt out' on the quota and left the situation for other countries to deal with.

The chart below shows the number of refugees proposed to be re-allocated within the EU to each country.

David Cameron warned earlier this month that Britain could not take "more and more" refugees, though the country's commitment has been limited in comparison to other European nations'.

The Government today appointed a new "Minister for Refugees" to help coordinate Britain's role in the on-going European crisis.

Conservative MP Richard Harrington has been made a junior minister with a portfolio spanning three departments - the Home Office, the communities department, and the international development department.

"Richard Harrington will be responsible for coordinating and delivering work across government to resettle up to 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the UK, along with coordinating the provision of government support to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the region," a statement from the Government said.

Read more:Cameron announces appointment of new minister for refugeesBritish boxer Amir Khan to deliver refugee aid to GreeceMay under pressure to increase refugees taken in by BritainGiving cash - not clothes - 'the most effective way to help

The appointment comes as David Cameron visits a refugee camp in Lebanon on a fact-finding mission.

"I wanted to come here to see for myself the enormous challenges facing Lebanon as it shoulders the burden of refugees fleeing Syria and understanding what more we can do to help you," he said at a joint press conference with Tammam Salam, the prime minister of Lebanon.

Mr Cameron said the UK would direct aid to Lebanon to help keep the country secure and noted that the UK had already helped train 5,000 Lebanese soldiers and assisted the building of a line of watchtowers on the country's border with Syria.

Refugees march from Hungary to Austria

He praised the way the country had integrated Syrian refugee children into its schooling system.

Labour's shadow foreign secretary Hilary Benn this morning told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that the UK had to "work in alliance and cooperation with our European allies" in order to solve the refugee crisis.

The crisis took a new turn this weekend as Germany, which has been acting as a safe-haven for refugees, reintroduced border controls - leaving thousands stranded in transit in other countries.

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Calais crisis: UK and France slammed by UN envoy for failing to understand the desperate plight of refugees; 'The numbers in the camp are only about 3,000 and could be easily handled'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H3W-D8B1-F021-63JH-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 9, 2015 Friday 8:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 501 words

**Byline:** Andy McSmith

**Body**

Conditions in the migrant camps in Calais are "a living reproach to European society" and to the UK's refusal to take its fair share of refugees, the UN Special Representative on International Migration has said.

Peter Sutherland castigated the governments of the UK, France and several Central and East European states for their seeming failure to understand the desperate plight of refugees fleeing war zones.

A visit to the camps in Calais had left him wondering if the squalor he saw there was a deliberate ploy to discourage others from trying to find refuge in the UK.

Speaking at a conference on boat migrants at University College Dublin, Mr Sutherland said: "The conditions in which the migrants were living were truly shocking. Doctors there told me of clear evidence of TB and scabies.

"This is a disgrace. It is also a clear example of the broader inadequacies in Europe's practical expression of its much-vaunted values.

Cameron has promised that the UK will take 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over the next five years

"These poor people, determined to reach Britain, and having already endured dreadful hardships to get to Calais, are stuck. The site is a living reproach to European society - a desperate place populated by desperate people."

Mr Sutherland added: "The numbers in the camp are only about 3,000 and could be easily handled. Are they being kept in squalor to put off others? Is improving their condition seen as a potential 'pull factor?'

"This logic is almost as obscene as the suggestion that saving lives in the Mediterranean might tempt others to come. The reality is that the issues surrounding the mobility of mankind in an era of global communications of all kinds require far more than the pandering to the xenophobia and racism increasingly evident in parts of the developed world."

Read more

Two arrested after walking through Channel Tunnel

Refugee crisis: What life is really like inside the 'Jungle' in Calais

Banksy's Dismaland moves to Calais to provide shelter for refugees

Calais migrants are living in appalling conditions, say doctors

On 9 October, the Mid Kent MP Helen Whately, one of three MPs who travelled to Calais to take aid donations to inhabitants, said conditions there were "bad and getting worse".

David Cameron has promised that the UK will take 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over the next five years, but will only take those who are in camps in the Middle East.

The Prime Minister claims that accepting refugees who have found their way across Europe would encourage others to attempt the journey, and that Britain would be "overwhelmed" if every refugee who wanted to come here was accepted.

Germany has agreed to absorb 800,000 refugees. There are currently 1.7 million in Turkey and a similar number in Lebanon, while Greece and Italy have born the brunt of refugees seeking to escape by crossing the Mediterranean.

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Theresa May refuses to condemn Donald Trump immigration ban; Prime Minister says she was 'very pleased' to meet new President in Washington*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRK-15H1-F021-63DD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 4:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 519 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Theresa May has refused to condemn Donald Trump's ban on refugees and entry for citizens of seven Muslim-majority nations after meeting with the Turkish President.

She was speaking just a day after meeting the new President in Washington , where the pair pledged their commitment to the "special relationship" between Britain and the US.

After agreeing a controversial £100 million fighter jet deal amid wide-ranging purges and security crackdowns following an attempted coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Ms May held a joint press conference with Prime Minister Binali Yildirim.

When May met Trump - five key points from the leaders' press conference

Their talks were overshadowed by global debate over Mr Trump's executive order to ban ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US indefinitely, halt all other asylum admissions for 120 days and suspended travel visas for citizens of "countries of particular concern", including Syria, Iraq and other Muslim-majority nations.

Read more

Iraqi refugee targeted for helping US military detained at JFK airport

May agrees fighter jet deal with Erdogan despite human rights abuse

Most Isis victims Muslims despite Trump's plan for Christian refugees

​Faisal Islam, the political editor of

Sky News

, asked Ms May whether she viewed it as an "action of the leader of the free world".

The Prime Minister replied that she was "very pleased" to have met Mr Trump in Washington, before evading the question by hailing Turkey's reception of millions of refugees and Britain's support for its government and other nations surrounding Syria.

Mr Yildirim was more direct, calling the crisis a global issue, saying the UN members "cannot turn a blind eye to this issue and settle it by constructing walls".

"Nobody leaves their homes for nothing, they came here to save their lives and our doors were open...and we would do it again," he added. "If there is someone in need, you need to give them a helping hand to make sure they survive."

Mr Trump has suspended all refugee admissions to the US for 120 days as part of measures he claimed would "keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the US".

His order additionally banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely until "significant changes" are made, and halved the annual cap on refugees to 50,000.

The President'swide-ranging executive order also suspends travel visas for anyone from seven predominantly Muslim countries, including Syria, Iraq, Libya and Iran,from entering the US for at least 90 days.

He claimed his administration needed time to develop more stringent screening processes for refugees, immigrants and visitors.

It provoked outcry from NGOs working to stem the worst ever global refugee crisis, with more than 65 million people forced to flee their homes.

Amnesty International warned the move could have "catastrophic consequences", saying some of the worst fears about a Trump presidency were already being realised.

Salil Shetty, the group's secretary general, said: "These men, women and children are the victims of the same terror President Trump claims he wants to fight against. The irony beggars belief."

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*'We never turn a child away': Helping the young Syrian refugees who don't make it to Europe; Lebanon has a long history of welcoming refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KMK-3101-JCJY-G4TB-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 5, 2016 Monday 2:00 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 1102 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

"Je suis Syrienne," a thin little girl in downtown Beirut says in French, gesturing, eating with one hand while holding the other out for donations. When given some coins and asked what her name is, she runs away, sandals too big for her feet clapping against the pavement.

Refugee children like her - whether selling gum, roses or offering to shine shoes - are an increasingly visual phenomenon on the streets of the Lebanese capital.

"There are so many, and even then it's hard to grasp the scale of the problem. The past five years have been tragic," says Arveen Iskandarian, who works at children's charity Jabid.

Read more

Syria conflict: Horrific pictures show children burned by incendiary bombs

Isis says second-in-command, Abu Muhammed al-Adnani, has been killed in Syria

Syria war: UN warns 'the world is watching' as regime forces evacuate civilians and rebels from Daraya

Charities and rights groups are worried that begging is just the tip of the iceberg: organised gangs target vulnerable Syrian children for sex work and other criminal activity, says Maher Tabarani, the director of Home of Hope, the only Beirut organisation dedicated to helping children on the street.

"Almost all the kids who come to us have been sexually abused, trafficked, and some have even been destined for organ trafficking. It's shocking what they've been through at such a young age."

The abandoned children who end up at Home of Hope have no rights - 85 per cent don't even have ID. Legally don't exist (Bethan McKernan)

Since haunting pictures of the body of three-year-old Alan Kurdi on a Turkish beach appeared a year ago, the world's focus has shifted from the refugee crisis in Europe to a photograph of Omran Daqneesh, a distressed five-year-old sitting in an ambulance in the aftermath of an airstrike on Aleppo.

Less attention is paid to how the brunt of the fallout from Syria's civil war is still being felt by its neighbours - Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon - where conditions for refugees are often abysmal.

"[The image of Alan Kurdi] has become iconic, while media coverage of millions of other Syrian children going through the same suffering as he did has since dwindled," said Tanya Chapuisat, the Unicef Country Representative in Lebanon.

"Families of hundreds of thousands of children still live in conditions like the ones Alan's family was fleeing, and are still forced to take the same decisions as his family did on matters of life and death."

Alan's family, like 2.7 million other Syrians, tried to make a life for themselves in Turkey before attempting to reach the Greek island of Kos across the Aegean Sea. An estimated 1.3 million Syrians have gone to Jordan, but more than 1.5 million people have fled to Lebanon since the 2011 uprising against Bashar al-Assad began - making one in four people in the tiny country a refugee, and Lebanon the world's biggest host of refugees per capita.

Lebanon has a long history of welcoming refugees, opening its arms to Armenians, Iraqis and Palestinians in the past century. And while the Lebanese - remembering how Syria took their people in during their own civil war between 1975-90 - initially welcomed Syrians into their communities, the past five years have taken an unprecedented economic toll on the country. As a result, Syrians are often the target of hostility and discrimination.

The usual image associated with refugees is one of camps filled with row upon row of white tents, but in reality most of Lebanon's Syrian population live in towns and cities. There are no official camps run by the government, so Syrian families move into rented farmsteads, or derelict or abandoned buildings, often in already overcrowded Palestinian areas.

There are so many Syrian refugee children in Lebanon it's hard to grasp the scale of the problem (Getty)

There has been a significant Palestinian presence in Lebanon since the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, but to this day they are not allowed citizenship and are unable to seek work on the same terms as Lebanese citizens. The situation now faced by Syrians is similar: many work illegally to make ends meet, but undocumented Syrians are vulnerable to exploitation by landlords and loan sharks. UNHCR says that recent visa restrictions bought in by the Lebanese government are likely to drive many more into abject poverty.

While a 2015 report from Unicef estimates there are at least 400,000 Syrian children in Lebanon, the already financially crippled school system has only been able to accommodate around half. One in ten Syrian children is now working for a living instead, and that figure is expected to rise as the impact of stricter visa rules are felt. In areas like the Beka Valley, boys and girls as young as ten are working on farms for as little as $4 a day, according to Save the Children.

Some have to work to support their families, and some are forced to because they're on their own. It is these children who are particularly at risk of abuse, Unicef says - and the problem is getting worse, thanks to the cost of caring for a growing refugee population, which is not matched with increased funding. "Unicef's funding was 123 times bigger than in 2011... [but] the needs are unprecedented. It's never enough," Chapuisat says.

The 75 children at Home of Hope, a Christian home for abandoned and disadvantaged children located in a quiet hillside suburb, were all picked up off the streets by police and placed in the home's care by court order. "These kids have no rights," Tabarani says. "I'd say 85 per cent of them don't even have ID. They legally don't exist, so it's no wonder they fall through the cracks."

Tabarani himself knows how that feels. As the child of a Palestinian refugee father and Lebanese mother, he was not allowed to apply for Lebanese citizenship on the maternal side. "I wanted to be a paediatrician," he says. "But it was never possible for me to go to medical school here - I wasn't allowed the right licences."

Just this week, Home of Hope took in two Syrian three-year-olds who were found in a dumpster, and an abandoned two-year-old Sudanese girl who is now the youngest resident. The other children have named her Sasha. Sitting in the canteen of her new home at lunchtime the toddler is quiet, but smiles at the care worker helping her eat.

In the five years Tabarani has worked at the home, he's seen the number of children in their care nearly double - from 40 to 75. But they are the lucky ones.

"We never turn a child away from our door," he says. "We help all children in need, regardless of their background. The question is: how do we stop them becoming in need in the first place?"

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Lebanon appoints man as first ever women's affairs minister; New 30-minister strong cabinet made up of 29 men heralded as marking theend of more than two years of political gridlock*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MF2-5YD1-JCJY-G2HC-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 19, 2016 Monday 11:47 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 512 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

Lebanon is on its way to ending more than two years of political deadlock after Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri announced the formation of a new 30-member strong government and cabinet.

The new government will have "at the top of its list of priorities to preserve security against the fires ravaging our region", Mr Hariri said of the new line-up in a media conference on Sunday night. The announcements came six weeks after the country elected Christian Michel Aoun as President after two and a half years without a head of state,which had left parliament unable to pass legislation.

Mr Hariri stressed that the government would act to "preserve our country from the negative consequences of the Syrian crisis".

Read more

No, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** cannot return to Aleppo

Lebanon to abolish loophole law allowing rapists to marry victims

Lebanon ends two years of gridlock with presidential election

Lebanon: UN says four Hezbollah soldiers killed Hariri

Important changes include Yacoub al-Sarraf as defence minister and Cesar Abou Khalil as energy and water minister. Mr Hariri also announced the two new posts of anti-corruption minister and a minister of state for women's affairs, as well as a state secretariat for refugees.

However, the appointment of Jean Ogasapian-a male ex-army colonel from the centre-right Future Movement party -as the minister in charge of the newly created portfolio for women's affairs has drawn criticism.

Lebanon is generally at the forefront of human rights protection in the region, and women enjoy a higher level of autonomy than in many surrounding countries, butthey are still woefully underrepresented in politics. There is only one woman in the new cabinet, and four female MPs sitting in the 128-strong parliament.

The broad new government encompasses members from all main Muslim and Christian political parties except for the Christian Phalangist Party, which turned down a post. Lebanon's political system ensures parity between Muslim and Christian representatives.

The key positions of foreign minister, finance minister and interior minister will remain in the hands of Gebran Bassil, Ali Hassan Khalil and Nouhad Machnouk respectively.

Women in Lebanon protest law allowing rapists to marry their victims to escape punishment

Mr Hariri was nominated to form Lebanon's next government in November, but it was expected that the process would not go smoothly thanks to his fierce opposition of Hezbollah, the influential Shia movement, which he maintains assassinated his father in 2005.

However, in a phenomenal realpolitiking move, Mr Hariri supported Hezbollah's candidate Mr Aoun's run at the presidency in order to secure his own return to office as prime minister.

The new government will include two ministers from Hezbollah.

It is hoped that Lebanon's politicians will now have the ability to tackle the country's many challenges, including a stagnant economy and the influx of approximately one million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the tiny country.

The first parliamentary elections in eight years are due to be held in May 2017.

**Load-Date:** December 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian torture victims in UK 'not receiving enough specialist care'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MM9-B661-F072-42YB-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

January 13, 2017 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 577 words

**Byline:** ASHLEY COWBURN POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**Body**

Syrian torture survivors who have settled in Britain as refugees may not be receiving specialist support and access to mental health services, according to a new Commons report. According to a report by the influential Public Accounts Select Committee more than half of the 2,659 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** resettled up to the end of June 2016 are the survivors of torture or violence. But, it adds, only a handful have been referred to specialist organisations for assessment and rehabilitation services.

Meg Hillier, the Labour MP who chairs the committee, called on ministers to undertake a full review of how victims of torture are identified and later supported by local authorities. "It is critical that such people receive specialist support," she added.

"Our committee has previously highlighted the shortcomings in access to mental health services and we call on the Government to ensure a plan is in place to properly support refugees in need of them".

The committee received evidence from Freedom from Torture, a registered charity dedicated to the treatment and rehabilitation of survivors of torture who seek refuge in the UK. In a statement the charity, however, said it was concerned refugees were not receiving the care they need to recover from their traumatic experiences during Syria's brutal civil war. The charity added: "Despite being the largest torture rehabilitation centre in the country (and one of the largest in the world), only a handful of Syrians from the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement programme have been referred to us for assessment or rehabilitation services."

The report from the PAC also raises doubts over a pledge by the former Prime Minister David Cameron - in response to the humanitarian crisis in the region during the summer of 2015 - to resettle 20,000 Syrian refuges in Britain by the end of the decade through the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement programme

Despite a concerted effort to resettle 1,000 refugees before Christmas in 2015, the report adds: "Meeting the overall the target, to resettle 20,000 of the most vulnerable ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the UK by May 2020, remains a significant challenge."

While local authorities across the UK have already made sufficient indicative pledges of support to house all 20,000 of the expected refugees, there was also "confusion" about the full extent of support they were expected to provide. Failure to provide clarity on this issue "risks the successful delivery of the programme," the report warned.

Ms Hillier said more work was needed to make the resettlement programme "sustainable in the longer-term". The Government should set out "detailed plans" now or risk failing the refugees and undermining public support for the programme, she added.

"It is important to recognise the efforts and achievements of those bodies involved in the early part of this programme, which resettled 1,000 refugees before Christmas 2015," said Ms Hiller. "But there is a long way to go."

Refugee Council director of advocacy Lisa Doyle said: "The Government's target of resettling 20,000 people is more than achievable and local communities and charities like the Refugee Council are standing ready to help.

"What's needed now is an acknowledgement that the global refugee crisis isn't going away any time soon and that a longer-term strategy for refugee resettlement is needed which clearly outlines roles, responsibilities, resources and an ambitious plan for welcoming refugees beyond 2020."

**Load-Date:** January 12, 2017

**End of Document**



[*The joy of Canada delivered from Stephen Harper's darkness to Justin Trudeau's light; Harper was an economist.Trudeau used to be a schoolteacher, and has shadesof his gadabout but humane PM fatherPierre*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HMT-DB91-JCJY-G1XR-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 18, 2015 Friday 7:13 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 865 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

Let us now praise famous men... Justin Trudeau comes to mind. "Canada is back," the country's new Prime Minister told the climate conference in Paris - and closed the door on the bigoted, aggressive Canada which his Conservative predecessor had been trying to create.

It's nice to write a story that's an "upper" rather than a "downer" - which most Middle East reports must be. I was in Canada during the election, when former Prime Minister Stephen Harper ran a campaign of such cruel mendacity against his own country's Muslim minority that I began to wonder if Canada had lost its moral standing in the world.

Justin Trudeau greets ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** arriving in Toronto

Hands up, I asked a large and wealthy group of Canadian businessmen in Banff, those of you who have had to apologise abroad for the behaviour of Stephen Harper. A miserable three raised their hands. "Some weren't exactly telling the truth," a conference organiser privately responded. I knew that. From being a magnanimous, peacekeeping power which believed in the UN, human rights and a multicultural future, Canada was becoming a country obsessed with security, state intrusion, fear (of Muslims, of course) and conglomerate power. Harper was an economist. Trudeau used to be a schoolteacher.

Read more

7 things we learned from Justin Trudeau's 60 Seconds Challenge

Almost the first thing he did was tell Barack Obama that Canada would no longer use its air force to bomb Isis. He closed down the government's legal case against Muslim women who wished to wear the "niqab" partial face covering at nationalisation ceremonies. And he sent the Canadian air force to Beirut to pick up hundreds of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - every day - and bring them to a new home in Canada.

Unlike our own mean-minded Dave Cameron - who bleakly ignored the first planeload of Syrians who landed in the UK - Trudeau went to the airport to greet the first 163 refugees who would find sanctuary in his country, put his arms around them, endured the obligatory selfies and told them, "welcome home". On Trudeau's instructions, the Royal Canadian Air Force is flying in 25,000 refugees by the end of February. Obama is taking a pitiful 10,000 by the end of next year - Trump permitting.

Trudeau to welcome first of daily Syrian refugee flights to Canada

Last year, at the Vancouver headquarters of the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles, I met the unit's commanding officer, a turbaned Indian-born Sikh lieutenant colonel called Harjit Sajjan. He'd served in the peacekeeping force in Bosnia and three tours in Afghanistan - where he was not only an intelligence officer but designed a military gas mask for bearded soldiers. A humorous, energetic Canadian patriot - a bit over-clever, I cruelly thought to myself at the time - he might have made a great commander-in-chief. He did better. Trudeau has just appointed him Canada's Minister of Defence.

And Trudeau also announced an Afghan female minister. Half his cabinet are women. Asked why, Trudeau replied, "Because it's 2015". Harper's cuts to the culture and arts budgets - and to the poverty-stricken state broadcaster CBC - are to be reversed. He responded to the Paris massacre of 13 October by calmly offering all help to Canada's "French cousins" rather than advocating war, although his description of the attacks merely as "deeply worrying" and "unsettling" brought the defeated Harperites roaring back into fury.

Read more

Canada PM welcomes ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as US Muslims warn against hate

Justin Trudeau explains why his gender-equal cabinet is so important

Justin Trudeau's handsome victory could set the tone for Corbyn

Justin Trudeau beat a Conservative Senator in a charity boxing match

There are some shadows. Trudeau and his wife appear in a front-page-led feature in the new issue of Vogue - shades of his gadabout but humane late Prime Minister father, Pierre, who also had a beautiful wife - but if Angela Merkel can claim the front page of Time, why shouldn't a Canadian make it to Vogue? Trudeau's own French Canadian community has some anti-Muslim racism worth forgetting, and in opposition Trudeau supported Harper's horrible Barbaric Cultural Practices Act which banned polygamy and "honour killing"- so the law was clearly aimed at Muslims - even though national legislation already forbade such crimes. Maybe the Québécois influence Trudeau more than he might confess; there's even a faintly misogynist streak in the community. In French Canada, a boyfriend is "mon chum" and a girlfriend is "ma blonde".

Just as in America, whoever followed George W Bush had to be better, so Trudeau is Jesus to Harper's Old Testament darkness. He'll screw up at times, just like Obama has. But on election night, he told Canadians that "we know in our bones that Canada was built by people from all corners of the world who worship every faith... A Canadian is a Canadian is a Canadian." Strong stuff when we're supposed to be living in the age of "terror". So for a while, Canadians can call Trudeau their "chum" - and his wife their "blonde".

**Load-Date:** December 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Lebanon appoints man as first ever women's affairs minister; New 30-minister strong cabinet made up of 29 men heralded as marking theend of more than two years of political gridlock*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MF1-NX81-JCJY-G3FH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 19, 2016 Monday 11:47 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 512 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

Lebanon is on its way to ending more than two years of political deadlock after Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri announced the formation of a new 30-member strong government and cabinet.

The new government will have "at the top of its list of priorities to preserve security against the fires ravaging our region", Mr Hariri said of the new line-up in a media conference on Sunday night. The announcements came six weeks after the country elected Christian Michel Aoun as president after two and a half years without a head of state,which had left parliament unable to pass legislation.

Mr Hariri stressed that the government would act to "preserve our country from the negative consequences of the Syrian crisis".

Read more

No, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** cannot return to Aleppo

Lebanon to abolish loophole law allowing rapists to marry victims

Lebanon ends two years of gridlock with presidential election

Lebanon: UN says four Hezbollah soldiers killed Hariri

Important changes include Yacoub al-Sarraf as defence minister and Cesar Abou Khalil as energy and water minister. Mr Hariri also announced the two new posts of anti-corruption minister and a minister of state for women's affairs, as well as a state secretariat for refugees.

However, the appointment of Jean Ogasapian - a male ex-army colonel from the centre-right Future Movement party - as the minister in charge of the newly created portfolio for women's affairs has drawn criticism.

Lebanon is generally at the forefront of human rights protection in the region, and women enjoy a higher level of autonomy than in many surrounding countries, butthey are still woefully underrepresented in politics. There is only one woman in the new cabinet, and four female MPs sitting in the 128-strong parliament.

The broad new government incompasses members from all main Muslim and Christian political parties except for the Christian Phalangist Party, which turned down a post. Lebanon's political system ensures parity between Muslim and Christian representatives.

The key positions of foreign minister, finance minister and interior minister will remain in the hands of Gebran Bassil, Ali Hassan Khalil and Nouhad Machnouk respectively.

Women in Lebanon protest law allowing rapists to marry their victims to escape punishment

Mr Hariri was nominated to form Lebanon's next government in November, but it was expected that the process would not go smoothly thanks to his fierce opposition of Hezbollah, the influential Shia movement, which he maintains assassinated his father in 2005.

However, in a phenomenal realpolitiking move, Mr Hariri supported Hezbollah's candidate Mr Aoun's run at the presidency in order to secure his own return to office as prime minister.

The new government will include two ministers from Hezbollah.

It is hoped that Lebanon's politicians will now have the ability to tackle the country's many challenges, including a stagnant economy and the influx of approximately one million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the tiny country.

The first parliamentary elections in eight years are due to be held in May 2017.

**Load-Date:** December 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Lebanon appoints man as first ever women's affairs minister; New 30-minister strong cabinet made up of 29 men heralded as marking theend of more than two years of political gridlock*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MF2-5YD1-JCJY-G2HB-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**End of Document**



[*Ruby Rose warns we should be scared of Donald Trump and not laugh at him after Skittles row*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KRV-9CJ1-F021-6199-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 20, 2016 Tuesday 1:00 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 517 words

**Byline:** Olivia Blair

**Body**

Ruby Rose has warned those who findDonald Trumpfunny or treat his remarks as amusing to start taking the Republican nominee more seriously after his son tweeted a meme comparing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to a bowl of skittles.

Donald Trump prompted a backlash on Monday after tweeting an image of a bowl of sweets alongside the caption: "If I had a bowl of skittles and I told you just three would kill you. Would you take a handful? That's our Syrian refugee problem."

Mr Trump Jr. shared the image, writing: "This image says it all. Let's end the politically correct agenda that doesn't put America first."

This image says it all. Let's end the politically correct agenda that doesn't put America first. #trump2016pic.twitter.com/9fHwog7ssN

- Donald Trump Jr. (@DonaldJTrumpJr) September 19, 2016

Rose questioned how, in light of this, people can still think of the real-estate mogul and his campaign as funny instead of scary.

Can skittles sue Trump? Can everyone sue trump? How is Trump still a thing, because people thought it was funny? Well it's scary not funny.

- Ruby Rose (@RubyRose) September 20, 2016

I think everyone thought they would egg it on till Trump went down in flames, perfect entertainment.. But not if he takes everyone with him.

- Ruby Rose (@RubyRose) September 20, 2016

The outrage was not limited to the

Orange is the New Black

actress and a day after Mr Trump Jnr sent the tweet, 'Skittles' was still in the top 10 trends on Twitter with people both mocking and condemning the comparison.

That feeling when you drop your dank Skittles meme pic.twitter.com/dw2MvjHW9x

- Zach Braff (@zachbraff) September 20, 2016

People aren't skittles.

- deray mckesson (@deray) September 20, 2016

"Life is like a box of poisoned chocolate. You never know what you're gonna get."

- Forest Trump

- Hend Amry (@LibyaLiberty) September 20, 2016

Been away from the Internet for a few hours and now Skittles have greater moral integrity than the GOP.

- Adam Sessler (@AdamSessler) September 20, 2016

"If I had a bowl of Skittles and I told you th-"

"Can I elect the bowl of Skittles president instead of your dad?"

"..."

- Parker Molloy (@ParkerMolloy) September 20, 2016

Thousands of Syrian children just like Omran have been killed in the war. They aren't Skittles. They're children. Just like yours. #Skittlespic.twitter.com/3x7TW8hDOV

- N (@\_narbie) September 20, 2016

Skittles themselves responded to the row, issuing a statement saying: "Skittles are candy. Refugees are people. We don't feel it's an appropriate analogy. We will respectfully refrain from further commentary as anything we say could be misinterpreted as marketing."

The comment from Mr Trump Jr is not far from his father's, often disparaging, rhetoric around refugees. In February, the 70-year-oldsaid he would have "absolutely no problem" looking a Syrian refugee child in the eye and telling them to "go home". He has also suggested ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are a terror threat, calling them a "Trojan horse". A monthlater, he famously proposed a temporary ban on all Muslims entering the United States.

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*George Osborne hints at military strikes in Syria to stem exodus of refugees; The Chancellor insists crisis must be tackled 'at source', but political consensus for action against President Assad may be hard to find*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVM-PXG1-JCJY-G451-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 5, 2015 Saturday 9:30 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 817 words

**Byline:** Jane Merrick

**Body**

George Osborne has given a strong signal that Britain will take part in military action in Syria as he warned that dealing with the escalating refugee crisis meant tackling President Bashar al-Assad's "evil" regime.

The Chancellor's hawkish comments coincided with reports that French President François Hollande is also considering military strikes in Syria and will announce further details in Paris this week.

There was speculation mounting in Whitehall that the Prime Minister could ask MPs to back enforcing a no-fly zone over Syria, as a way to protect ordinary citizens, rather than all-out strikes against Damascus. With Jeremy Corbyn still on course to win the Labour leadership, David Cameron's search for consensus on Syria would be more successful if he made the argument about creating safe havens rather than strikes against Assad.

Speaking at a summit of finance ministers in Turkey, Mr Osborne said dealing with the crisis meant not only taking action against Islamic State (Isis) but also the Assad administration, and that Britain had got to "get engaged" with achieving stability in Syria.

Millions of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have fled the country since the start of the civil war four years ago. Britain came close to bombing government targets in 2013, but Mr Cameron failed to get the backing of Parliament. Since then, the rise of Isis - also known as Isil - has worsened the refugee crisis, and the drowning of the al-Kurdi brothers will have stiffened the resolve of many MPs, meaning a government motion might be easier to argue through the voting lobbies.

Yet the PM made clear on 4 September that action in Syria depended on the outcome of the Labour leadership election next weekend, insisting it was important to achieve "consensus" in the House of Commons. A victory for Jeremy Corbyn would make consensus more difficult, because the left-winger has said he cannot see the circumstances in which he would back military action.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

Asked about the crisis while attending the meeting of G20 finance ministers in Ankara, Mr Osborne said: "You've got to deal with the [migration] problem at source, which is this evil Assad regime and the Isil terrorists, and you need a comprehensive plan for a more stable, peaceful Syria. A huge challenge of course, but you can't just let that crisis fester. We've got to get engaged in that."

Mr Osborne said the humanitarian response also needed co-ordinating across Europe, adding: "Yes, we must offer asylum to those who are genuinely fleeing persecution. Countries like Britain always have, we are one of the founders of the asylum system. We will take, as the Prime Minister said, thousands more.

"But at the same time, you've got to make sure you've got aid going into the refugee camps on the borders.... We've got to defeat these criminal gangs who trade in human misery and risk people's lives and kill people."

On 4 September Mr Cameron hinted that a fresh vote for military action was under consideration when he was asked about a Commons motion, saying: "I will only proceed if there is genuine consensus in the UK before going back to Parliament."

On 5 September Le Monde quoted an unnamed "high level source" as saying that President Hollande is considering air strikes against Isis in Syria.

The French leader is expected to outline further details on 7 September. France has supplied arms to moderate rebels fighting the Assad regime but has resisted joining air strikes against Isis for fear of benefiting the Damascus government.

Read more: Boris Johnson: UK can do more to help Syrian refugeesNumber of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** UK has taken in would fit on a Tube trainUK may not join Syria military action if Corbyn becomes Labour leaderWhen people ak why ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** travel to Europe, show them this

In Britain, the former Defence Secretary Liam Fox stepped up his calls for action against Syria, which he said should include enforcing a no-fly zone to create a safe haven for Syrians and to stem the numbers of refugees.

Dr Fox said the international community needed to "deal with the cause of the refugee crisis, not merely its symptoms". He added: "These poor people are caught between the barbarity of the Assad regime and the depravity of Isis. The PM has rightly identified this as a huge threat to regional, and Britain's, security, yet our response is inadequate.

"The policy of attacking Isis in Iraq but not in Syria is patently absurd, which not only makes us less effective militarily but diminishes us in the eyes of other partners in the coalition. If we have identified a threat to our national security, we have a duty to deal with it.

"Hand-wringing about the tragedy of the refugees is not enough. It is time that action was taken to deal with the root of the problem."

This newspaper has started a campaign for the UK to welcome a fair share of refugees.

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: UK foreign aid budget to be spent 'in the national interest' to house people in Britain, George Osborne says*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVT-2RJ1-F021-60VG-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 6, 2015 Sunday 9:13 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 845 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

Chancellor says David Cameron will reveal details of plans to take in 'thousands' more people in the Commons on Monday, but announces a 'fundamental rethink' on how the budget for overseas aid is spent in 'the national interest'

Britain's foreign aid budget will be used to provide homes for refugees in the UK as part of a "fundamental rethink" on how the Government tackles the growing crisis, George Osborne has announced.

The Chancellor said that the aid budget should be used in a way that helps "Britain's national interest", not just "the rest of the world".

David Cameron will address the Commons on Monday to provide details of exactly how Britain will increase its contribution to help refugees, Mr Osborne said. Sources within Downing Street have reportedly said the UK will offer to take "at least 10,000" - a dramatic increase on its previous commitments.

Speaking to the BBC's Andrew Marr Show, Mr Osborne admitted that the picture of Syrian three-year-old Aylan Kurdi washed up on a beach in Turkey had "brought home to everyone the severity of the crisis", likening it to photos of napalm victims from the Vietnam war.

"That picture brought home to the British public, and indeed politicians, the sheer horror of what's going on," he said.

Read more: This is how desperate refugees are to enter the EUGermans stage pro-migrant rally with 'refugees welcome' bannersMay says migrants should be banned from entering the UKNumber of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** taken in by UK would fit on Tube train

While Mr Osborne insisted that "the policy hasn't changed" on the refugee crisis, he said: "Britain will approach the problem with a head as well as a heart."

"In the shorter term, we are going to take more refugees - but not in a way that encourages them on to boats. In the longer term, I think we need a fundamental rethink of the way we spend our aid budget."

Mr Osborne said money from the overseas aid budget would be given to local councils in Britain to help them prepare for the arrival of larger numbers of refugees.

He said Britain would select people directly from refugee camps on the Syria border so as not to encourage them to make the journey themselves. He suggested preferential treatment would be given to orphans, but otherwise gave no details as to how the selection process would work. The refugee crisis - in pictures

"We are trying to deter criminal gangs rather than provide a magnet," he said. "We don't want to say to people that you can only have a home in Britain if you have made that dangerous journey across the Mediterranean."

Mr Osborne also said that more of Britain's aid budget would go towards improving conditions on the camps bordering conflict zones "to keep them there and house them there".

"You've got to make sure the aid budget is well spent," he said. "Where is Britain's national interest? It's in reducing this big problem on our doorstep."

There was a mixed reaction to Mr Osborne's announcement on social media, and while some accused the Chancellor of "sleight of hand", others said the solution was "win-win for everyone".

.@George\_Osborne sums up selfish #Tory attitude on @AndrewMarr9 show @BBCOne says UK overseas aid must benefit Britain's national interests!- Isobel Freeman (@SocialistGreen) September 6, 2015Clever sleight of hand by Osborne. Use syria crisis to divert foreign aid money to local government, masking deep cuts till next year #marr- Phil Irving (@irvingphil) September 6, 2015@George\_Osborne's announcement of using the OA budget is appalling,they divert money to avoid paying, creating further problems overseas.- Jonathan Lane (@jlaorganbuilder) September 6, 2015@BBCNewsnight what a sensible plan George Osborne gave on the Andrew Marr show. Win win for everyone- Peter Walsh (@pwalshie) September 6, 2015Foreign aid budget to help local councils look after ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** , George Osborne says. Curious if this meets OECD definition of aid.- Patrick Wintour (@patrickwintour) September 6, 2015.@George\_Osborne you heartless cretin. Cutting foreign aid (diverting it within Britain) will only create more suffering &refugees elsewhere- Louise Hazan (@greenhaze) September 6, 2015#Osborne to use some of foreign aid budget to pay for refugees in UK. Very politically astute move. #Marr- Captain Darling (@Capt\_Darling) September 6, 2015

It came as the Government faced increasing calls from some bankbench Conservatives to carry out air strikes in Syria as a way of tackling the refugee crisis at its source.

Mr Osborne acknowledged that the West was not doing enough to deal with the Syrian civil war and specifically the militant group Isis, but said Mr Cameron would not risk a repeat of the failed Commons vote to approve air strikes two years ago.

"We are not going to go back to the House of Commons unless we would be sure that we would get a different answer if we were asking to intervene," he said.

Read more: Boris Johnson: UK can do more to help Syrian refugeesUK may not join Syria military action if Corbyn becomes Labour leaderWhen people ask why ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** travel to Europe, show them this

**Load-Date:** September 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Ruby Rose warns we should be scared of Donald Trump and not laugh at him after Skittles row*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KRV-5621-F021-60CJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 20, 2016 Tuesday 1:00 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 512 words

**Byline:** Olivia Blair

**Body**

Ruby Rose has called on people to stop treating Donald Trump like a joke after his son tweeted a meme comparing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to a bowl of skittles.

Donald Trump Jr, the Republican presidential nominee's eldest son, prompted a backlash on Monday after tweeting an image of a bowl of sweets alongside the caption: "If I had a bowl of skittles and I told you just three would kill you. Would you take a handful? That's our Syrian refugee problem."

Mr Trump Jr. shared the image, writing: "This image says it all. Let's end the politically correct agenda that doesn't put America first."

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- Donald Trump Jr. (@DonaldJTrumpJr) September 19, 2016

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The comment from Mr Trump Jr is not far from his father's, often disparaging, rhetoric around refugees. In February, the 70-year-oldsaid he would have "absolutely no problem" looking a Syrian refugee child in the eye and telling them to "go home". He has also suggested ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are a terror threat, calling them a "Trojan horse". A monthlater, he famously proposed a temporary ban on all Muslims entering the United States.

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Israeli border wall company share value soars after Donald Trump victory; Private prison companies also experienced a sharp spike in the immediate aftermath of Trump's election*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M4J-DVG1-F021-62FK-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

November 9, 2016 Wednesday 10:01 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 428 words

**Byline:** Feliks Garcia

**Body**

The Israeli company that built the wall around Gaza saw a spike in shares when it became clear Donald Trump would become the next President of the United States - making the possibility of a wall at the Mexico border more tangible.

Magal Security Systems Ltd had already been salivating at the prospect of a Trump win and what that would mean for the barrier-building business. The company experienced gains over the years, as they expanded their work from the Gaza Strip to Egypt, Somalia, and other countries in Africa.

Mr Trump launched his campaign on the promise of building the wall to keep out undocumented immigrants - whom he called rapists, drug traffickers, and criminals. It remains unclear if Mr Trump's wall would supplement the existing barriers in urban areas along the 1,900 mile border, constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers in the mid-1990s, or simply replace it.

Bloomberg's

Thomas Penny pointed out that Magal saw an increase of six per cent on Wednesday.

Sharp rise in shares of Israeli border wall building company[*https://t.co/e1JsEkt3anpic.twitter.com/HX4bweBa1l*](https://t.co/e1JsEkt3anpic.twitter.com/HX4bweBa1l)

- Thomas Penny (@ThomasWPenny) November 9, 2016

"We would join forces with a major US defence company that has experience with such projects worldwide," Magal CEO Saar Koursh told Bloomberg in August. "We've done it in the past and we would definitely want to do it."

The company had previously seen a surge in business with the rise in global anxieties over Isis amid the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***.

USA: Donald Trump will build the BIGGEST anti-Mexico wall... apparently

"The border business was down, but then came Isis and the Syrian conflict," he said. "The world is changing and borders are coming back big-time."

Another sector apparently benefitting from Mr Trump's election win is the private prison industry. Two companies, Corrections Corp and GEO Group, saw significant gains, recouping losses they suffered after the Department of Justice announced it would discontinue the use of federal private prisons.

Read more

Inmates launch massive strike to protest 'slavery' in US prison system

11 things Donald Trump has promised

Trump's proposed $25 billion wall would be impossible to build

Israel hits Gaza with barrage of air strikes after rocket attack

It is likely that a President Trump would reverse that decision.

"Private prisons would likely be a clear winner under Trump," analysts for Height Securities LLC wrote, "as his administration will likely rescind the DOJ's contract phase-out and [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] capacity to house detainees will come under stress."

**Load-Date:** November 9, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Greece prepares to send back first refugees under EU-Turkey deal*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JFH-F311-F072-42S4-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 3, 2016 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 515 words

**Byline:** LEO CENDROWICZ IN BRUSSELS

**Body**

Fears are being raised that Greece will be unable to manage the Herculean task of sending back refugees to Turkey under the European Union's controversial migrant transfer deal, which is due to be enforced from tomorrow.

Humanitarian aid groups such as the United Nations' refugee agency (UNHCR) have warned that the deal, which includes detention camps on the Greek islands, is illegal, and will be impossible for overwhelmed Greek and EU officials to implement.

Greece is scrambling to prepare returning the first refugees from Syria and other war-torn regions back to Turkey under the terms of the deal struck on 18 March at a Turkey-EU summit in Brussels. The agreement is aimed at deterring them from using people-smugglers to cross from Turkey to nearby Greek islands, a route which one million refugees have taken over the past year. Under the accord, EU countries pledged to take one screened refugee directly from Turkish soil for each Syrian refugee returned to Turkey.

A top UN official warned yesterday that the deal to send ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** back to Turkey en masse could be illegal, as Ankara is pushing them back over the border into the war zone.

"Collective deportations without having regard to the individual rights of those who claim to be refugees are illegal," Peter Sutherland, the UN Secretary-General's special representative for international migration and development told the BBC. "Secondly, their rights have to be absolutely protected where they are deported to - in other words, Turkey. There has to be adequate assurances they can't be sent back from Turkey to Syria."

He was echoed by Amnesty International, which says unaccompanied children have been expelled from Turkey back to Syria. "In their desperation to seal their borders, EU leaders have wilfully ignored the simplest of facts: Turkey is not a safe country for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***," John Dalhuisen, Amnesty's Europe and central Asia director, said.

Officials are already warning that the deal faces delay as they try to manage the readmission processes and build a new infrastructure for returns almost from scratch. The ongoing stream of refugees continuing to cross the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece means that there is already a huge backlog to handle. The UNHCR has said it will no longer provide assistance at the detention centres in line with its policy against mandatory detention of asylum seekers.

Greek officials say they need a 20-fold increase in personnel to handle the expected claims.

They also have to decide how to handle more than 50,000 refugees stranded in the country, unable to move northwards as Greece's neighbours have closed their borders.

Nor has the EU's deal with Turkey had an effect on refugee flows: an estimated 5,000 refugees have landed on the Greek islands since the summit agreement last month.

However, unrest has already spread among refugees in anticipation of the returns, with clashes breaking out between police and asylum seekers at Idomeni refugee camp, where more than 11,000 people have been stranded since Balkan countries shut down their borders in late February.

**Load-Date:** April 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*From Syria to the Vatican: Pope takes three refugee families home with him*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJH-1X31-JCS0-D52G-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 17, 2016 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 567 words

**Byline:** LIZZIE DEARDEN

**Body**

Three families of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have been taken to Rome with the Pope after he offered them a place on his plane.

They were among thousands of people trapped on the Greek island of Lesbos following the controversial EU-Turkey deal, under which all asylum seekers arriving over the Aegean are detained as they await their fate. A statement from the Vatican said 12 people, including six children, were taken as part of a "gesture of welcome regarding refugees" during Pope Francis'' tour of the island on Saturday.

Their homes had been bombed during the Syrian civil war: two families came from Damascus and others escaped Isis territory in Deir ez-Zor. Footage showed them lined up on the tarmac of Lesbos's main airport as Pope Francis said his farewells to Catholic and Orthodox leaders who accompanied him on Saturday's tour of the island.

Their unexpected flight to Europe is a provocative move for the pontiff, coming amid continued protests over measures seeing all asylum seekers arriving clandestinely over the Aegean detained. The Syrians taken back to Rome all arrived before the 20 March deadline, meaning they are not subject to the new rules.

The Vatican said it will take responsibility for supporting the families, who will initially be settled by the Catholic Sant''Egidio community. "The Pope's initiative was brought to fruition through negotiations carried out by the Secretariat of State with the competent Greek and Italian authorities," a spokesperson said.

Pope Francis had visited the Moria detention centre, where almost 3,000 people are being held in conditions described as "appalling" by charities. He also visited the island's capital of Mytilene for a prayer service to commemorate the hundreds of migrants who have died attempting to reach Europe's shores.

In a speech, he told refugees they were "not alone" and urged them not to lose hope. "We have come to call the attention of the world to this grave humanitarian crisis and to plead for its resolution," he said. "We hope that the world will heed these scenes of tragic and indeed desperate need, and respond in a way worthy of our common humanity."

The Vatican said the five-hour visit to Lesbos was purely humanitarian and religious in nature, not political, but the Pope's message to Europe was clear.

Appearing to refer to border closures and fences erected across the continent during the refugee crisis, he said the world needs bridges, not walls.

Controversy continues over the situation in Lesbos, which is now subject to the 18 March EU-Turkey deal. This stipulates that anyone arriving clandestinely on Greek islands will be returned to Turkey unless they successfully apply for asylum in the country.

For every Syrian sent back, the EU will take another Syrian directly from Turkey for resettlement in Europe but other nationalities make up more than half of those arriving.

In return, Turkey was granted concessions including billions of euros to deal with the more than 2.7 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living there, and a speeding-up of its stalled accession talks with the EU.

Despite the measures, condemned by human rights groups as "shameful" and "inhumane", desperate asylum seekers fleeing war and persecution in the Middle East and Africa continue to arrive.

Frontex, the European border agency, intercepted a dinghy carrying 41 Syrians and Iraqis off the coast of Lesbos, three hours before the Pope's arrival.

**Load-Date:** April 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Ancient and modern grief; What would Greek tragedy 'The Trojan Women' mean to Syrian refugees? A lot, as Holly Williams finds out from a new documentary*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GDT-6PS1-F072-44W0-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

July 12, 2015

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 7

**Length:** 1080 words

**Byline:** Holly Williams

**Body**

'I have a scream I have to let out - I want the world to hear it." So says Suad, a young Syrian woman who fled her homeland for Jordan. It's one of the most powerful moments in a new documentary, Queens of Syria, which follows a 2013 theatre project run with Syrian refugee women in the Jordanian capital, Amman, to stage a new version of Euripides's tragedy, The Trojan Women.

The laments of the women of Troy, grieving for dead husbands and children and the destruction of their homes, may have been written in 415 BC - but we see how they ring all too-true to these modern victims of war, and how the women become passionate about using this ancient Greek text to tell their own stories. "This is real ... it's not just in Troy," says one young woman, Maha, to the camera. "This has happened for real. It has happened to us."

Yasmin Fedda's film follows rehearsals to the final performance, given in Amman in winter 2013. And Queens of Syria is now getting its London premiere, as part of the Shubbak: A Window on Contemporary Arab Culture festival.

Almost four million people have fled Syria since the civil war began, and more than 600,000 of them have settled in Jordan. But despite such vast numbers, it can be a lonely, isolating experience - and for many who took part in the seven-week project, it was an invaluable way to meet others. Around 60 women initially showed up though only 25 saw the project through to the final weeks. For them, "there was definitely [a growing] camaraderie and friendship," says Fedda, as they shared their stories and realised they were not alone in what they'd experienced.

As well as being an Arabic translation, their version of The Trojan Women wove in the performers' accounts of their own experiences of war, which they spoke simply, sitting at a microphone under a spotlight. The women's encounters with the Assad regime or with violent militias are harrowing, and Fedda's film features the moments when women first share them in workshops - often breaking down at the memory.

One woman tells how 15 armed, masked men burst into her house, and threatened her at gunpoint when her brother refused to go with them; later she heard he had been found shot dead. Another tells how her father was repeatedly detained; once, shortly after he'd had a prostate operation, they found him dumped on the roadside, catheters hanging out of him. Another tells how her father and two brothers were tied up, blindfolded and shot, before being thrown into a mass grave.

The project was the idea of a British couple, film-makers Charlotte Eagar and William Stirling; both classicists, they saw the potential parallels between the Ancient Greek and real-life modern tragedies and the way in which the former might enable performers to discuss the latter. To facilitate this, Eagar and Stirling brought in Syrian theatre director Omar Abu Saada, as well as Nanda Mohammad, a soap star familiar to the amateur cast. Award-winning filmmaker Fedda, who is based in London but has lived in Syria where she still has family, was an obvious choice to document the process. Queens of Syria has already won Fedda the prize of best director from the Arab world at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival.

Fedda says she very quickly became convinced of the merits of the theatrical project. "From what I witnessed, it was definitely an important process - to share, and to feel the other people caring for you, and maybe to grieve if you need to." For her, the film was more about documenting and celebrating this process than about the final performance.

They also made a shorter TV cut for BBC Arabic, which has an audience of 36.2 million. Knowing their stories would be broadcast to so many was hugely empowering. Some participants felt the world wasn't hearing ordinary Syrians; Suad describes how a massacre on her street in which 400 died and her three brothers were injured attracted no reporting at all.

But, on the flipside, the exposure was a terrifying prospect for many. Most long to go home to Syria, and several feared being recognised from the project. Others feared for the safety of loved ones still in Syria. "If they seem to be saying something against the regime or against any particular group, that could have repercussions," acknowledges Fedda gravely. "Militias or regimes will take close [family] members of known people as a form of torture. It can happen, it's not unimaginable."

But, she explains, the anxiety was often less specific than that: "The fear is so deep inside that it isn't always easy to say 'I am scared because this direct thing will happen' - it's just, 'I am scared'. They grew up in a dictatorship which instils fear."

One of the beautiful things about the film, however, is watching the grip of that fear begin to slip: in early scenes, many women are nervous about the film, and ask that their faces not be shown, but by the final performance, only one woman is pixellated. Participants became used to the camera, and grew to trust Fedda; in the end, most were proud to go on record.

There were also fears closer to home, however: acting was not always deemed appropriate behaviour by their husbands or family, and others feared that performing was immodest. "Some found a way to make it acceptable - 'I'm not really acting, I'm sharing my story'," explains Fedda.

However, in the end, the reaction to the production was hugely positive. "Everyone was crying, and all the husbands were so proud and so happy. A bunch of them even [recognised] that their wives had had nothing to do; [the project] gave them excitement, community, a reason to wake up - and I think when the woman feels that, the whole household gets a sense of energy."

If some women downplayed their theatrical ambitions, others embraced their inner diva: "For some, it was very much 'I'm on stage - I'm an actress!'" As well as revealing the hardships these women faced, the film gives us a glimpse of their humour and high spirits. To see Syrian women larking about - tickling each other, singing songs, putting on lipstick - makes you realise how rarely we see cheerful everyday portrayals of any Muslim women, let alone refugees.

"It was important to me to show they are just normal people," agrees Fedda. "Even when things are terrible, people laugh, people produce art, they express themselves in all sorts of ways. It's important to show the lightness in the darkness."

'Queens of Syria' screens at the Barbican on 15 July, with a Q&A with Yasmin Fedda; shubbak.co.uk

**Load-Date:** July 11, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Jeb Bush promises to keep Guantanamo Bay open despite failing presidential campaign*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HDC-RR11-JCJY-G38G-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 18, 2015 Wednesday 4:22 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 540 words

**Byline:** Justin Carssimo

**Body**

Amid a failing presidential campaign, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush has promised to keep open Guantanamo Bay if he can somehow win in 2016.

The Republican establishment favorite trails former neurosurgeon Ben Carson, real-estate tycoon Donald Trump and Florida Senator Marco Rubio in every national poll. During his trip to military college The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina on Wednesday, he outlined his national security platform in an attempt to reestablish any sort of prominence within the race.

In October, the Bush campaign announced major cutsslashing jobs, removing senior staff, downsizing the Miami headquarters and cutting the campaign's payroll by 40 percent, along with 45 percent of its entire budget.

George W Bush's little brother will seek to politicize the Paris terror attacks that killed 129 people and injured more than 300 others by highlighting the dangers the US could face if the wrong person is elected as the leader of the free world.

US Navy guards escort a detainee at Guantanamo Bay.

Getty

"This brutal savagery is a reminder of what is at stake in this election. We are choosing the leader of the free world," Mr Bush said, according to an exert published by

Reuters

.

Mr Bush plans to restore $1 trillion in cuts to the US military, add 40,000 troops to the US Army, 4,000 to the US Marines and boost relations with NATO nations as well as the Middle East and Asia.

He also plans to keep open Guantanamo Bay, established by his brother, despite President Obama's promise to close the facility by the end of his second term in 2017. Only 107 detainees remain at the facility, including 48 prisoners cleared for resettlement in other countries, the

Washington Post

reports. He is expected to release the details of his plan by the end of this week.

Mr Bush largely blames President Obama, as well as his former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, for the rise of the Islamic State and terror attacks such as last Friday's massacre in Paris.

However, Mr Bush was chided by President Obama on Wednesday after the Republican suggested that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** should prove that they are Christians before immigrating to the United States.

"You're a Christian, I mean, you can prove you're a Christian," Mr Bush told reporters during a campaign stop in Florence on Tuesday. "I think you can prove it. You can't prove it, then you know, you err on the side of caution."

Read more

Before Jeb can 'fix America', he's somehow got to fix his own campaign

Jeb Bush could be the next presidential candidate to drop out

US governors possess no legal authority to refuse ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

On Wednesday, during a speech at the G20 summit in Turkey, President Obama hit back.

"When I hear folks say that maybe we should just admit the Christians but no the Muslims, when I hear political leaders suggesting that there would be a religious test for which person who is feeling from a war-torn country is admitted, when some of those folks themselves come from families who benefitted from protection when they were fleeing political persecution, that's shameful," he said.

"That's not American. That's not who we are."

**Load-Date:** November 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Aylan Kurdi's father to deliver Christmas message on TV; Special report: Europe's refugee crisis Channel 4's alternative address to be given by Syrian whose son's death triggered global outcry*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HNS-KGN1-JCS0-D05C-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

December 23, 2015 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 8

**Length:** 493 words

**Byline:** IAN BURRELL MEDIA EDITOR

**Body**

Channel 4's Alternative Christmas Message will be delivered this year by the father of a three-year-old boy whose drowning on a Turkish beach came to symbolise the plight of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Abdullah Kurdi will use the platform to plead for "a little bit of sympathy" for those who are merely "seeking peace and security".

The death of his son, Aylan, in September inspired a media outcry which is credited with transforming public opinion on refugees fleeing the crisis in Syria.

The Independent put the haunting picture of the drowned toddler on its front page and the tragedy became the subject of a social media storm. Researchers at Sheffield University found that pictures of Aylan - taken by a Turkish press photographer, Nilufer Demir - were the subject of 53,000 tweets per hour on Twitter, appearing on 20 million phone and computer screens around the world in a 12-hour period.

Politicians were moved to act. David Cameron announced that the UK would take "thousands" more ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and that further aid would be provided to camps in Syria, Turkey, Jordan and the Lebanon.

In his Channel 4 address, Mr Abdullah - who also lost his wife, Rehanna, and five-year-old son, Galeb, as the family tried to reach Greece on an overcrowded inflatable craft which capsized - will appeal for the world to do much more.

"We Syrians leave our country due to war. We all are afraid for our children, for our honour. There are barrel bombs, explosions and also Daesh [Isis]. We have hundreds of thousands of problems," he says.

"My message is I'd like the whole world to open its doors to Syrians. If a person shuts a door in someone's face, this is very difficult. When a door is opened they no longer feel humiliated."

His words are interspersed with footage of the refugee crisis and the dangerous Mediterranean crossings from Libya to Italy and from Turkey to Greece.

"At this time of year I would like to ask you all to think about the pain of fathers, mothers and children who are seeking peace and security," he says. "We ask just for a little bit of sympathy from you."

Mr Kurdi is a Kurdish Syrian who had been in Turkey for three years but returned to his home city, Kobani, to bury his family.

At the time of the funeral he said he had "buried my soul along with my sons". He currently lives in Irbil in Iraq, and has plans to start a charity project running a hospital and school for Syrian Kurds.

The Channel 4 Alternative Christmas Message will be broadcast on Christmas Day at 3.35pm.

The tradition - an alternative to the Queen's annual televised message to the nation - began in 1993.

The message has previously featured the then President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the American whistleblower Edward Snowden, the writer Quentin Crisp, the human rights campaigner the Rev Jesse Jackson, the campaigners Doreen and Neville Lawrence, and 9/11 survivor Genelle Guzman. Last year's message was delivered by William Pooley, a British nurse who survived Ebola.

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Settle refugee crisis or let in the hard right, EU leaders warn*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H0T-1G61-F072-43M5-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 25, 2015 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 30

**Length:** 515 words

**Byline:** LEO CENDROWICZ IN BRUSSELS

**Body**

Europe's refugee crisis is still far from settled, and tough decisions need to be made to ensure there is not a "surge of the extreme right" across the continent, EU leaders warned yesterday.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said EU summit measures were only a "first step", and a solution to the migrant crisis was still far off.

European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans said there would be a surge of right-wing extremism across Europe unless the crisis was addressed properly, with border controls to deal with the mass of people arriving on the shores of Greece and Italy. "If we're not able to find sustainable solutions, you will see a surge of the extreme right across the European continent," he told BBC radio. "We have to make sure that those countries where people arrive are better placed to make sure people are registered, that people who don't have the right to asylum are returned swiftly," he said.

EU leaders met in Brussels on Wednesday and pledged Euro 1bn in aid to the UN refugee agency and the World Food Programme (WFP) for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the Middle East and closer cooperation to stem the migrant flows.

Ms Merkel said yesterday that Europe needs "not just selective relocation" - following the passing of a plan to distribute 120,000 refugees proportionally among EU member states - but a "permanent process for fairly distributing refugees among member states".

However, opposition from a number of eastern EU nations has made more progress difficult. Hungary indicated yesterday that it might challenge in court the relocation plan. "The quota proposal is a typical example of the moral imperialism that Germany forces upon Europe," said Janos Lazar, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's chief of staff.

The scale of the crisis was underlined by figures from Hungary, which had a record number of migrant crossings on Wednesday: 9,939 entering from Croatia and 102 from Serbia; while Croatian police said yesterday that more than 51,000 refugees and migrants had entered the country in the last 10 days.

The summit talks centred on tighter border controls, particularly in Italy and Greece, which have been repeatedly criticised by other countries for not processing arrivals properly.

"It is clear the greatest tide of refugees and migrants is yet to come, so it's clear that we need to correct the problem of open doors and windows," said European Council President Donald Tusk. "Today we are talking about millions of potential refugees trying to reach Europe, not thousands," he added. The issue will be back on the agenda at the next EU summit in Brussels, on 15 and 16 October.

Aid agencies noted EU leaders had yet to enact measures to ease the plight of refugees. The United Nations refugee agency, the UNHCR, said it was disappointed that no further measures beyond relocation were proposed to create safe, legal pathways into Europe for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said: "The plan can only work if, at entry points in Europe, robust facilities are created to receive, assist, register and screen people."

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Attorneys General in 16 US States condemn Donald Trump's Muslim ban*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRT-MWB1-JCJY-G3YJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 29, 2017 Sunday 8:26 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 202 words

**Byline:** Caroline Mortimer

**Body**

Attorneys General from 16 US states have condemned Donald Trump's executive order banning citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries travelling to the US.

The White House has remained defiant over the travel ban, which prevents people from Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Syria and Yemen travelling to the US, despite several judges ruling it is "unconstitutional".

One federal judge has ordered a temporary stay on the order, which was reportedly not reviewed by Department of Justice lawyers before it was signed, allowing people with green cards and visas into the country.

In a joint statement, the officials from California, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, Massachusetts, Hawaii, Virginia, Vermont, Oregon, Connecticut, New Mexico, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Illinois and the District of Columbia condemned the "chaotic situation" the order had created.

They said: "Religious liberty has been, and always will be, a bedrock principle of our country and no president can change that truth".

The executive order bans all immigration from the seven countries for 90 days as well assuspendingthe entire US refugee programme for 120 days and forbidding the immigration of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely.

More follows...

**Load-Date:** January 29, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Katie Hopkins vows she will not be silenced over the refugee crisis; Hopkins broke her silence on Monday after thousands demanded she apologise for past comments about refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW6-TX11-JCJY-G1MG-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 8, 2015 Tuesday 9:27 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 551 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

Katie Hopkins has vowed she will not be silenced over the refugee crisis after images highlighting the plight of desperate people fleeing persecution sparked a backlash from thousands.

The acerbic columnist and TV presenter was once again at the centre of furious criticism last week over a comment piece published five months ago that reacted to the deaths of hundreds of refugees by comparing them to cockroaches.

The dehumanising article was widely condemned by refugee rights groups and compared to pro-genocide propaganda by the United Nations. Hopkins was also questioned by police over allegations of inciting racial hatred in connection with the piece, which included the sentence: "Show me pictures of coffins, show me bodies floating in water, play violins and show me skinny people looking sad: I still don't care."

The refugee crisis - in pictures

Twitter users began bombarding her with tweets reminding her of that sentence after the #refugeeswelcome campaign was launched alongside a devastating picture of the Syrian child Alyan Kurdi lying dead on the shore of a Turkish beach.

READ MORE: 7 WAYS BRITISH PEOPLE ARE HELPING REFUGEES RIGHT NOWFIVE PRACTICAL WAYS YOU CAN HELP REFUGEES TRYING TO FIND SAFETYIF THESE IMAGES DON'T CHANGE EUROPE'S ATTITUDE, WHAT WILL?REFUGEE CRISIS: IS CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTING MASS MIGRATION?

While usually outspoken, Hopkins did not answer her critics or comment directly on the crisis until Monday, when she broke her silence with a tweet criticising Britain's foreign policy in Syria by comparing it to a box of plasters.

In a series of tweets on Monday evening, Hopkins warned Britain was thinking emotionally instead of rationally about the biggest refugee crisis to hit Europe since the Second World War.

"When it comes to refugees, Britain is thinking with its heart not its head," she warned. "That's like dancing with your elbows."

Thanking the public for emails and letters of support, she promised her views on the crisis and reaction were forthcoming.

When it comes to refugees, Britain is thinking with its heart not its head. That's like dancing with your elbows #refugees ; Katie Hopkins (@KTHopkins) September 7, 2015Thank you for all the kind emails and letters. Fear not! I will have my say. There is no silencing the old bat #refugees ; Katie Hopkins (@KTHopkins) September 7, 2015@beckicee this is more than I can ask for - but I am grateful. Thank you. @TheSun; Katie Hopkins (@KTHopkins) September 7, 2015

She also mocked a Change.org petition calling for her to be swapped for 50,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** after it was signed by more than 50,000 people, writing: "Petitions are great. One click and you're like, literally, clicking your mouse. Once. That's empowerment right there! Boom."

Harrowing pictures of a police officer cradling Alyan's body on a Turkish beach and other images demonstrating the scale of human suffering and death have galvanised Europe into action.

Thousands of residents in the UK are offering their homes to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and 5,000 people have registered for a Citizens Advice scheme aiming to make Britain a "safe haven" for displaced Syrians by promising a spare bed or advocating on behalf of refugees.

READ MORE: SIGN THE INDEPENDENT'S PETITION TO WELCOME REFUGEESKATIE HOPKINS URGED TO APOLOGISE FOR REFUGEE COLUMN

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Europe must cope with refugees or its reputation is 'kaput', says Merkel*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GTW-P2J1-JCS0-D01M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 2, 2015 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 22

**Length:** 520 words

**Byline:** TONY PATERSON IN BERLIN

**Body**

Chancellor Angela Merkel has again pledged that Germany will lead Europe from its migrant crisis as thousands of refugees from Syria and Afghanistan arrived unexpectedly in the country by train from Austria and Hungary, prompting Budapest to close its main railway station.

Germany is struggling to cope with a record influx of 800,000 asylum-seekers this year - more than any other European Union member state. But at a press conference in Berlin yesterday, Ms Merkel insisted that her country was equipped for the challenge, despite revelations that the crisis would cost taxpayers an extra Euro 3.3 bn (£2.4bn) next year.

"Germany is a strong country," she said. "We have managed to cope with so many things. We will cope with this and if there are obstacles, they will have to be overcome." Ms Merkel added that if Europe failed to tackle the refugee crisis, it would not be "the Europe that we want" and that its claims to champion human rights would be "kaput".

Her remarks came less than 24 hours after an estimated 3,600 refugees from Syria and Afghanistan arrived in Munich and the neighbouring town of Rosenheim by train from Hungary and Austria.

Bavarian police said they were overwhelmed by the sudden influx. Chaotic scenes were reported at Munich's main railway station, where thousands of refugees spent the night in the trains they arrived in. Commuters were said to have supplied the new arrivals with breakfast rolls and water.

On Monday the Hungarian government decided unilaterally to waive EU asylum regulations stipulated under the so-called Dublin agreement and allow thousands of refugees gathered at Budapest railway station to travel to neighbouring Austria and Germany. Under EU rules refugees must apply for asylum in the first EU country they set foot in.

But yesterday the authorities in Budapest responded to sharp EU criticism of their decision and promptly shut down the city's main and severely overcrowded Keleti railway station for westbound trains. There were tense scenes as hundreds of baton-wielding riot police cleared the station of refugees hoping to enter Germany.

Thousands gathered outside the station. Kept at bay by police, they chanted "we want go Germany" and "Merkel, Merkel". Some waved makeshift placards bearing the words "Babies are tired" and "We want to go".

Hungary said most refugees entering the country had done so via Bulgaria and Greece. It claimed neither had upheld EU rules and had allowed the migrants to enter Hungary unhindered. Meanwhile Greece said it had rescued some 1200 refugees from the Agean over the past 24 hours.

The crisis also sparked a diplomatic dispute. Austria accused Germany of failing to respect the Dublin agreement and said Ms Merkel had encouraged refugees in Hungary to travel westwards. Ms Merkel insisted that she had only pointed out that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** would most likely be given war refugee status.

In London, the shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said Britain could accept some 10,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. "We seem paralysed to respond," she said. "We can't carry on like this. It's immoral, it's cowardly and it's not the British way."

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Migrant crisis: Angela Merkel warns Europe its credibility on human rights is about to be 'kaput'; German Chancellor insists her country is equipped for challenge, despite revelations the crisis will cost taxpayers an extra (EURO)3.3bn next year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GTS-36K1-F021-604J-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 1, 2015 Tuesday 8:57 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 553 words

**Byline:** Tony Paterson

**Body**

Chancellor Angela Merkel has again pledged that Germany will lead Europe from its migrant crisis as thousands of refugees from Syria and Afghanistan arrived unexpectedly in the country by train from Austria and Hungary, prompting Budapest to close its main railway station.

Germany is struggling to cope with a record  influx of 800,000 asylum-seekers this year - more than any other European Union member state. But at a press conference in Berlin, Ms Merkel insisted that her country was equipped for the challenge, despite revelations that the crisis would cost taxpayers an extra (EURO)3.3bn (£2.4bn) next year.

"Germany is a strong country," she said. "We have managed to cope with so many things. We will cope with this and if there are obstacles, they will have to be overcome."

Ms Merkel added that if Europe failed to tackle the refugee crisis, it would not be "the Europe that we want" and that its claims to champion human rights would be "kaput".

Ms Merkel's remarks came less than 24 hours after an estimated 3,600 desperate refugees from Syria and Afghanistan arrived in the Bavarian capital, Munich, and the neighbouring town of Rosenheim by train from Hungary and Austria.

Bavarian police said they were overwhelmed by the sudden influx. Chaotic scenes were reported at Munich's main railway station, where thousands of refugees spent the night in the trains they arrived in. Commuters were said to have supplied the new arrivals with breakfast rolls and water. On Monday the Hungarian government decided unilaterally to waive EU asylum regulations stipulated under the so-called Dublin agreement and allow thousands of refugees gathered at Budapest railway station to travel to neighbouring Austria and Germany. Under EU rules refugees must apply for asylum in the first EU country they set foot in.

Read more: Germans march at pro-migrant rallyHungarian police stop migrants getting trains to GermanyArrests in Hungary after 71 migrants found dead in lorry

But the authorities in Budapest responded to sharp EU criticism of their decision and promptly shut down the city's main and severely overcrowded Keleti railway station for westbound trains. There were tense scenes as hundreds of baton-wielding riot police cleared the station of refugees hoping to enter Germany.

Thousands gathered outside the station. Kept at bay by police, they chanted "we want go Germany" and "Merkel, Merkel". Some waived makeshift placards bearing  the words "babies are tired" and "we want gooo". Several ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** said they had paid (EURO)125 for train tickets to Munich and that they could not understand why they were being detained.

The crisis also sparked a diplomatic dispute. Austria accused Germany of  failing to respect the Dublin agreement and said Ms Merkel had encouraged refugees in Hungary to travel westwards. Ms Merkel insisted that she had only pointed out that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** would most likely be given war refugee status. "Given the situation in Syria that should be not surprise."

It was not immediately clear whether Ms Merkel's remarks about Syrian war refugee status had prompted Hungary to waive its Dublin treaty obligations. Hungary's controversial right-wing Prime Minister Viktor Orban announced he would attend a refugee crisis summit with EU leaders on Thursday to try to clarify the situation.

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Tough decisions needed to avoid a 'surge of the extreme right' across Europe, warn EU leaders; European Commission Vice-President says situation must be addressed properly, with border controls to deal with those arriving in Greece and Italy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DG2-TJX1-JCJY-G4MX-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 24, 2015 Thursday 7:09 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 559 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz

**Body**

Europe's refugee crisis is still far from settled, and tough decisions need to be made to ensure there is not a "surge of the extreme right" across the continent, EU leaders have warned.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said EU summit measures were only a "first step", and a solution to the migrant crisis was still far off.

European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans said there would be a surge of right-wing extremism across Europe unless the crisis was addressed properly, with border controls to deal with the mass of people arriving on the shores of Greece and Italy. "If we're not able to find sustainable solutions, you will see a surge of the extreme right across the European continent," he told BBC radio. "We have to make sure that those countries where people arrive are better placed to make sure people are registered, that people who don't have the right to asylum are returned swiftly," he said.

EU leaders met in Brussels on Wednesday and pledged (EURO)1bn in aid to the UN refugee agency and the World Food Programme (WFP) for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the Middle East and closer cooperation to stem the migrant flows.

Ms Merkel said that Europe needs "not just selective relocation" - following the passing of a plan to distribute 120,000 refugees proportionally among EU member states - but a "permanent process for fairly distributing refugees among member states".

However, opposition from a number of eastern EU nations has made more progress difficult. Hungary indicated that it might challenge in court the relocation plan. "The quota proposal is a typical example of the moral imperialism that Germany forces upon Europe," said Janos Lazar, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's chief of staff.

Read more

Cameron 'used' Aylan Kurdi's death - Farron

How the response to refugee crisis shames Cameron

Editorial: Quotas were right but divisions with deepen

The scale of the crisis was underlined by figures from Hungary, which had a record number of migrant crossings on Wednesday: 9,939 entering from Croatia and 102 from Serbia; while Croatian police said that more than 51,000 refugees and migrants had entered the country in the last 10 days.

The summit talks centred on tighter border controls, particularly in Italy and Greece, which have been repeatedly criticised by other countries for not processing arrivals properly.

"It is clear the greatest tide of refugees and migrants is yet to come, so it's clear that we need to correct the problem of open doors and windows," said European Council President Donald Tusk. "Today we are talking about millions of potential refugees trying to reach Europe, not thousands," he added. The issue will be back on the agenda at the next EU summit in Brussels, on 15 and 16 October.

Aid agencies noted EU leaders had yet to enact measures to ease the plight of refugees. The United Nations refugee agency, the UNHCR, said it was disappointed that no further measures beyond relocation were proposed to create safe, legal pathways into Europe for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said: "The plan can only work if, at entry points in Europe, robust facilities are created to receive, assist, register and screen people."

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Denmark discourages asylum seekers with newspaper adverts in Lebanon; The adverts listed tighter regulations that reduce benefits for refugees, delay families being able to join them and bring in Danish language requirements*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW6-TX11-JCJY-G1K0-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 8, 2015 Tuesday 10:02 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 580 words

**Byline:** Adam Taylor

**Body**

The Danish government has placed an advertisement in a number of newspapers in Lebanon. The ads carry an unspoken yet unmistakable message: Don't come to Denmark.

They list a number of factors that would make Denmark an undesirable destination for refugees, including recent legislation that would reduce social benefits to arriving asylum seekers by 50 percent.

Pointedly, it notes that anyone hoping to gain permanent residence in Denmark would have to learn Danish.

Arabic and English versions of the advertisement, placed by Denmark's Ministry of Immigration, Integration and Housing, ran in four newspapers on Monday.

Denmark trying to scare off would-be migrants with these ads in #Lebanon media: pic.twitter.com/8uQasJJBF6- Sara Hussein (@sarahussein) September 7, 2015

Denmark has taken a stricter stance on immigration since the center-right Liberal Party formed a minority government in June.

While Germany and Sweden have embraced larger numbers of refugees over the past year, Denmark has cut back, imposing laws designed to discourage migrants from traveling to the country, including a severe cut to the benefits offered to refugees.

Read more: Where refugees are coming from and going in EuropeNine civil wars are raging - the crisis is not going to stop soonThousands of Brits volunteer to house ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

In July, Integration Minister Inger Stojberg had promised to run advertisements in foreign newspapers about the changes in Danish benefits to refugees.

"The advertisements must contain sobering information about the halving of benefits and other constraints we are going to adopt," Stojberg told the Danish broadcaster DR. "This kind of information spreads." The refugee crisis - in pictures

Denmark, like Britain, has an exemption from European Union-wide asylum regulations that aim to redistribute refugees. However, the Danish People's Party (DPP) has called for further measures, including potentially leaving Europe's border-control-free Schengen zone.

The DPP is a powerful player in Danish politics at the moment: While not a part of government, it became the second-largest party in Denmark after the election and provides key support to the Liberal Party.

The party has a clear anti-immigration agenda. Last month, one DPP politician argued that the government should step in to regulate the Danish language, warning that the "pizza Danish" spoken by immigrants in fast-food restaurants was spreading.

On Monday, some in Denmark criticized the advertisements, including some members of the Liberal Party. "I am very, very disappointed," Michael Gatten, a member of Copenhagen's municipal council, told Jyllands-Posten. "It is a repulsive way of acting."

"This must be the worst timing for an ad in the history of the world," Uffe Elbaek, the leader of the left-leaning Alternative Party, wrote on Twitter.

In a post published on Facebook, Stojberg explained the motivation behind the advertisements. "We simply cannot keep up with the current influx," the minister wrote, adding that it was important not only to tighten laws but also to let potential migrants know.

The post has been liked more than 6,000 times as of late Monday morning.

Denmark received almost 15,000 asylum-seekers last year, a significant increase over previous years. There are more than 1 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Lebanon, meaning that at least one out of every four people living in the country fled the war in Syria.

Copyright: Washington Post

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Paris attacks: Syrian refugees put shootings in French capital in perspective; More than 200,000 people are believed to have been killed since Syria descended into war in early 2011 - but far from creating empathy for the plight of those fleeing Isis in their homelands, the deaths of 129 in the French capital have led Europe's right to call for an end to refugee intakes altogether*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HCY-G1B1-F021-64KB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 16, 2015 Monday 1:56 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 539 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

Amid reports that one of the Paris attackers travelled to Europe hidden on a refugee boat, the far-right leader Marine Le Pen has called for an "immediate halt" to France's intake of asylum-seekers.

For those travelling to seek a better life for themselves and their families, it appears fears a backlash against genuine asylum-seekers have been realised.

Border controls already hardening in the midst of the unprecedented refugee crisis are being shut altogether across Belgium, Italy and France.

And while those measures are in part to prevent the escape of those who planned and helped carry out the attacks on the French capital, political leaders in Poland, Latvia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic have issued statements linking the attacks to the numbers arriving.

The European Commission president, Jean-Claude Juncker, has warned Europe against confusing refugees and terrorists, asking the public not to "give in to such basic reactions".

Read more

Lyrics to La Marseillaise ahead of England v France

Paris attacks may have been arranged on a PlayStation 4

Paris attacks: Europe observes minute's silence in memory of dead

Military intervention 'coming back to hunt West' says Ken Livingstone

And speaking to the AFP News Agency, a Syrian refugee named Ghaled said he wished the empathy for the scores killed Paris could be translated to empathy for the hundreds of thousands dead in his home country.

Visiting the French embassy in Berlin to pay his respects, he said he feared "mistrust" of Arabs across Europe would now turn to "hate".

"What's happening to them is happening every day in Syria...so we know what that means," the 22-year-old said.

Those who attacked Paris were "criminals", Mr Juncker said at the G20 summit in Turkey, "not refugees, not asylum seekers".

"Those who organised these attacks and those that perpetrated them are exactly those that the refugees are fleeing and not the opposite," he said.

In Lucé, a suburb of the French town of Chartes with a significant Muslim community, mosque official Ismail Snussi told

The Independent

he was "fearful for what comes next".

Osmar Ismail Mostefai, the first gunman identified by police in the aftermath of the shooting, attended the mosque in Luce until two years ago before he disappeared.

"What he did was not part of Islam," Mr Snussi said. "Our true religion really is one of peace and co-existence, but now I'm fearful for what comes next. We're concerned about a crackdown, from the state, the police, and the press. We may become the focus of people's anger."

More than 200,000 Syrians have been killed since the start of the country's civil war in 2011, according to theSyrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Amnesty International UK's Syria Campaign Manager Kristyan Benedict told

The Independent

that it was "no secret" the vast majority of civilian deaths there were at the hands of President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

"It's important that ISIS's many crimes are properly documented and the perpetrators brought to justice, she said. "But the far bigger killing machine in Syria is the one made in Damascus."

**Load-Date:** November 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: How Europe's alarming lack of unity over the issue could bring about the break up of the EU; As thousands clamour to be admitted to safety, Germany and Sweden offer welcome, some Eastern European nations will let in only 'Christians,' and Britain tries, as usual, to make and play by its own rules*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW8-9NP1-JCJY-G0Y8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 8, 2015 Tuesday 9:16 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 1969 words

**Byline:** John Lichfield

**Body**

A three-year-old refugee child drowns while trying to reach the safety of a muddled and largely unwelcoming EU. Syrian refugee families are herded on and off trains in Budapest. Other refugees have their arms marked with identity numbers by Czech police. Razor-wire fences are built in Hungary - and in Calais.

Germany (stiff, unyielding Germany) says: "Never mind the rules. Let them all come in."  So does Sweden. Some East European countries say: "Only Christian refugees are welcome; and not too many of those please." Italy and Greece, swamped by refugees, demand more help from their partners. France and Austria vacillate. Spain says that it has problems enough.

Britain tries, as usual, to make and play by its own rules.

North vs south; east vs west; Britain vs the rest; German leadership or German dominance. The refugee crisis is like a diabolical stress test devised to expose simultaneously all the moral and political fault lines of the European Union.

The EU was born out of calamity. Over the last six decades, its policies have often been forged by resolving conflicts between member states.

In graphics: Refugees in the EU

And yet this crisis seems more profound, more acute, more tangled, more poisonous, than any that has gone before. It is not about currencies or net contributions or farm subsidies but about the core issues of common humanity and solidarity that the EU claims to epitomise.

The refugee crisis coincides with, and threatens to complicate, other existential challenges: Greek debt and the survival of the eurozone; EU reform and Britain's in/out referendum next year.

Read more: The greatest barriers to joint European actionWhat reaching Europe means to families fleeing warSyrian refugees walk through the night trying to reach Budapest

"The world is watching us," the German Chancellor Angela Merkel said last week. "If Europe fails on the refugee question, its close bond with universal human rights will be destroyed, and it will no longer be the Europe we dreamed of." Open continental borders, one of the greatest of EU achievements, may be destroyed, Chancellor Merkel warned, unless the crisis is rapidly resolved.

It is absurd to blame the EU for being "divided". All the countries in Europe, and many political parties and many families, are split on how we should respond to the greatest refugee crisis on our continent for 70 years. There are no easy answers. The problem will grow even larger in the months and maybe years ahead. How could the EU not also be divided? Some of the divisions reflect genuine and honourable divergences in analysis and strategy, in geography or economic strength. Other statements hint at darker forces of extreme nationalism and racial intolerance.

Disagreement is one thing. Irreconcilable differences are another.

Chancellor Merkel, the technocratic wicked fairy of the Grexit saga, has become the humanitarian good fairy of the refugee calamity. And yet her moral leadership is seen by some other EU governments - and not just in the east - as quixotic and foolhardy. Her open-hearted position on refugees is just as Germanocentric, they say, as her unyielding approach to Greece.

The crisis will also have a direct impact on the negotiations on EU reform before the British referendum. David Cameron's amended position - Britain will take 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from Middle Eastern camps over five years but not those already in the EU - has infuriated some other European governments.

Mr Cameron's stance fails to address the fact that over 300,000 refugees are already in Europe - and that more are arriving every day. Britain's go-it-alone attitude will be challenged at what looks certain to be a tempestuous meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels next Monday and a summit next month. There will also be enormous pressure on the Eastern European countries which are refusing to take all but Christian refugees.

The European Union was made, and often shaped, in crisis. Has a crisis arrived which might finally break it apart?

EU governments have a legal framework to deal with asylum-seekers: the Dublin Convention signed in 1990, which took effect in 1997.  In broad terms, any refugee who arrives on EU soil must apply for asylum in the country where he or she first sets foot. The intention was to stop refugees from "asylum shopping" from one EU country to the next.

The system has never worked properly. Over the past two years it has buckled under the flood of African and Middle Eastern refugees across the Mediterranean to Italy and Greece and, more recently, the mass migration of Syrian and Balkan refugees into Hungary and Bulgaria.

The southern and eastern EU countries complained that the Dublin rules saddled them with almost the entire burden of cross-Mediterranean migration. The northern countries expressed sympathy but did little.

Some, such as Germany, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden, agreed to take some of the asylum-seekers. Other, such as France, erected obstacles at their southern frontiers (against the spirit of Schengen) to stop the refugees or migrants from coming north.

Many came north anyway. Some of them - but only a tiny fraction of the whole - piled up in Calais as they sought to enter Britain.

This summer the Dublin rules finally collapsed under the weight of the mass migration of Syrians, Kosovans and others through the Balkans to Hungary. The right-wing Hungarian government was left with an impossible situation that it did not handle well.

It built a razor-wire fence along its Serbian border; its police harassed and mistreated ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. It stopped them leaving for Austria and Germany and then changed its mind.

But what was Budapest supposed to do?

Under the Dublin rules, it was supposed to stop the migrants from entering the EU en masse; it was supposed to question those who arrived at its frontier and start asylum procedures for those genuinely considered to be fleeing war or oppression. It was not properly equipped to do either.

Read more: Where are all these refugees coming from and why?The grim reality faced by ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** stranded in LebanonDenmark discourages asylum seekers with newspaper ads in Lebanon

The Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban inflamed the situation by talking of a Muslim "invasion of Europe" and suggesting that "only Christian refugees" should be allowed to settle in Hungary. The Czech and Slovak governments have also refused to accept non-Christians. The Poles have been a little more generous.

Last month, Germany became the first country to state the obvious. The Dublin convention was dead. A new EU-wide asylum policy was needed. In future, Berlin announced, it would accept Syrian asylum-seekers even if they had already passed through another EU country. Chancellor Merkel said that Germany expected to receive 800,000 asylum-seekers this year. She called on other EU countries to accept a rejected European Commission plan for permanent quotas for the sharing of asylum-seekers according to each country's size and economic strength.

Germany, she implied, was prepared to do the most; it was not prepared to carry the burden alone. Unlike most other EU leaders, she was not caught out by the tidal wave of anger and emotion created last week by a photograph of a drowned three-year-old boy on a Turkish beach.

The French President, François Hollande, has now come down from the fence where he had been perched for months. Having previously refused any automatic and permanent system for dividing refugees, he has joined Germany and Italy in supporting the Brussels quota plan.

The Eastern European countries remain adamantly opposed.

For the Eastern Europeans, this is a first big moral and political test of their EU membership. The European Union was sold in Eastern Europe as a source of funds and opportunities - not a source of moral obligations or shared burdens.

Germany, the East Europeans say, needs refugees to boost its flagging population. Other European countries already have mixed Christian-Muslim populations. But we, on the EU's eastern borders, do not.

With the hard, nationalist right increasingly strong in such countries - and in power in Hungary - this position will be difficult for other EU governments to break down next week.

One German official told The Independent: "Until now, the Eastern Europeans had had many advantages in terms of investment and free movement for their young people. It is time for them to accept that they have to participate, within reason, in a decision by the whole of Europe to deal with this humanitarian catastrophe."

The whole of Europe? Enter: David Cameron. Mr Cameron says he will accept more ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - but not those who have already made their way to the EU. Giving them asylum places in Britain would, he argues, reward people-trafficking gangs and tempt even more refugees to attempt the perilous sea journey to Europe.

There may be some cold logic to that argument, but it amounts to abandoning the refugee-besieged southern and eastern EU countries. The Greek island of Lesbos alone has 15,000 mostly ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - as many as Britain is ready to accept in three years.

Mr Cameron argues that Britain has an exemption from EU migration policy. The European Commission accepts this, in principle.

Read more: Munich's citizens welcome refugees with open armsSyrian child refugees 'to be deported at age 18', says AshdownHow should homeowners go about helping to provide shelter?

At Monday's meeting, Brussels will propose a mandatory division of 120,000 refugees already in the EU - on top of 40,000 already allocated voluntarily. The UN insists that a realistic total would be nearer to 250,000. Even this figure will be overtaken in the coming months as some of the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Middle Eastern camps (four million in all) are attracted by the prospect of a new life in Europe.

The Brussels plan also includes better EU controls at external frontiers, including holding camps where bona fide refugees will be separated from economic migrants (who will in theory be sent home).

For the time being, the Commission suggests that Germany should take 31,443 more refugees (only three days' supply at the present rate of arrival in the Federal Republic). France should take 24,031, Spain 14,931, Poland 9,278, Romania 4,646, the Czech Republic 2,978 and so on.

Britain would be "ordered" to take none but would be "invited" to take part voluntarily. If we refuse, we will be asked to pay towards the cost of housing the refugees elsewhere.

France and Germany would have been angered by Mr Cameron's position in any circumstances. If Britain finds itself next Monday in a de facto anti-quota bloc with the Eastern Europeans - giving significant weight to their position - Ms Merkel, for one, will be profoundly angry. She has already warned, indirectly, that in these circumstances she would feel no great need to "save" Britain's membership of the EU by making concessions before the in/out referendum.

France takes a similar view. A senior official said: "Our position all along has been that we will help Cameron to keep Britain in the EU but we will not accept a situation where Britain has all the advantages of membership and none of the responsibilities. That is precisely what Cameron is demanding on the refugee question."

As it struggles with its greatest ever humanitarian test, the EU is in danger of being wrenched apart. Outright break-up is improbable. More likely there will be an acrimonious acceleration of the existing trend towards scission into a "core" and "periphery" - with Britain and Eastern Europe left in an outer or second division.

In those circumstances, it may not matter much whether Britain votes to leave or remain in the EU next year. The EU could, in effect, progressively leave Britain.

Click here to sign The Independent's Change.org petition

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Bloody aftermath of devastating Syria missile attack shown in video that reveals human impact of crisis; Footage has emerged from Monday's missile attack in Aleppo that reportedly killed up to 32 people*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H07-S891-JCJY-G15K-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 23, 2015 Wednesday 8:54 AM GMT

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**Section:** NEW ARTICLES

**Length:** 434 words

**Byline:** Ryan Ramgobin

**Body**

Amid the ongoing refugee crisis dividing Europe, the suffering goes on inside war-torn Syria - whether it is at the hands of Isis fighters, or President Assad's regime.

An extraordinary video captured by volunteer medics from the Aleppo Civil Defence group shows the bloody aftermath of a surface-to-surface missile.

Apparently fired by forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad's regime, the missile reportedly killed up to 32 people in the rebel-controlled al-Sha'ar neighbourhood.

The footage shows the devastating impact of the attack, with bodies strewn and debris scattered on the street, while cars and buildings burn in the background.

Desperate screams of emergency workers and ambulance sirens can be heard as teams attempt to rescue those buried underneath the rubble.

Warning - graphic footage.

It is not an isolated incident. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reports there has been 38,199 airstrikes carried out by Assad's air force in the 11 months from October 2014; which has caused the deaths of over 6,000 civilians.

The Syrian civil war has seen more than 200,000 people killed in four years, and dramatically increased the number of people seeking safety abroad.

UN Refugee Agency UK told The Independent : "The latest attack is a reflection of escalating violence inside Syria over the past months and a reminder that the root of the refugee crisis in Europe and the Middle East is the ongoing Syrian conflict which so far forced more than four million Syrians to flee their country and another 7.5 million are displaced inside Syria. In pictures: Syria conflict

"Ordinary civilians are paying the price. Only an end to the war in Syria will end the suffering of the Syrian people.

"In the meantime we need better support for the victims - through better funding of aid and humanitarian programmes inside Syria and in the key hosting countries, more bilateral aid to the key host countries including Jordan, Lebanon Turkey and Iraq and more international solidarity and burden sharing."

The ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** continues to divide the Europe Union after four countries voted against the plan to distribute 120,000 refugees across member states.

The dissenting countries included the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary.

The latter has been extremely vocal, with Prime Minister Viktor Orban saying on Monday that millions of refugees are "laying siege" to the borders of his country and of Europe.

Mr Orban's comments came as the Hungarian parliament voted to allow the use of rubber bullets and tear gas grenades against refugees.

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Paris attacks: Syrian refugees put shootings in French capital in perspective; More than 200,000 people are believed to have been killed since Syria descended into war in early 2011 - but far from creating empathy for the plight of those fleeing Isis in their homelands, the deaths of 129 in the French capital have led Europe's right to call for an end to refugee intakes altogether*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HCY-TH31-JCJY-G1X0-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 16, 2015 Monday 3:00 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 539 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

Amid reports that one of the Paris attackers travelled to Europe hidden on a refugee boat, the far-right leader Marine Le Pen has called for an "immediate halt" to France's intake of asylum-seekers.

For those travelling to seek a better life for themselves and their families, it appears fears a backlash against genuine asylum-seekers have been realised.

Border controls already hardening in the midst of the unprecedented refugee crisis are being shut altogether across Belgium, Italy and France.

And while those measures are in part to prevent the escape of those who planned and helped carry out the attacks on the French capital, political leaders in Poland, Latvia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic have issued statements linking the attacks to the numbers arriving.

The European Commission president, Jean-Claude Juncker, has warned Europe against confusing refugees and terrorists, asking the public not to "give in to such basic reactions".

Read more

Lyrics to La Marseillaise ahead of England v France

Paris attacks may have been arranged on a PlayStation 4

Paris attacks: Europe observes minute's silence in memory of dead

Military intervention 'coming back to haunt West' says Ken Livingstone

And speaking to the AFP News Agency, a Syrian refugee named Ghaled said he wished the empathy for the scores killed Paris could be translated to empathy for the hundreds of thousands dead in his home country.

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"What's happening to them is happening every day in Syria...so we know what that means," the 22-year-old said.

Those who attacked Paris were "criminals", Mr Juncker said at the G20 summit in Turkey, "not refugees, not asylum seekers".

"Those who organised these attacks and those that perpetrated them are exactly those that the refugees are fleeing and not the opposite," he said.

In Lucé, a suburb of the French town of Chartes with a significant Muslim community, mosque official Ismail Snussi told

The Independent

he was "fearful for what comes next".

Osmar Ismail Mostefai, the first gunman identified by police in the aftermath of the shooting, attended the mosque in Luce until two years ago before he disappeared.

"What he did was not part of Islam," Mr Snussi said. "Our true religion really is one of peace and co-existence, but now I'm fearful for what comes next. We're concerned about a crackdown, from the state, the police, and the press. We may become the focus of people's anger."

More than 200,000 Syrians have been killed since the start of the country's civil war in 2011, according to theSyrian Observatory for Human Rights.

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that it was "no secret" the vast majority of civilian deaths there were at the hands of President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

"It's important that ISIS's many crimes are properly documented and the perpetrators brought to justice, she said. "But the far bigger killing machine in Syria is the one made in Damascus."

**Load-Date:** November 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron signals partial retreat over UK sanctuary for most vulnerable Syria refugees following aid agencies' plea*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BBR-F6Y1-DXDT-61V6-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 22, 2014 Wednesday 2:12 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 500 words

**Byline:** Andrew Grice

**Body**

David Cameron changed tack on Syria today by offering to give some of the most vulnerable refugees in the camps in neighbouring countries sanctuary in Britain.

The Prime Minister's partial retreat came after Labour raised in the Commons the letter signed by 25 aid agencies and refugee groups, published in The Independent on Saturday, calling on the Government to end its refusal to take part in the United Nations' resettlement programme.

Mr Cameron told MPs: "Where there are extreme hardship cases, I think we should look at this again."  He added: "If there are very difficult cases of people who don't belong in refugee camps, who have either been disabled by these dreadful attacks, or are in very difficult circumstances, I am happy for us to look at that argument."

Mr Cameron said one child refugee was already been treated in a British hospital. But Downing Street was unable to say how many Syrians might be helped by his more flexible approach.

Labour said Mr Cameron's change of heart did not go far enough because he stopped short of saying Britain would join the UNHCR's programme.  Labour, which wants the UK to accept 400 to 500 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***,  will force a Commons vote on the issue a week today, when it hopes to attract the support of Tory and Liberal Democrat MPs who are pressing for a U-turn by the Government.

Ed Miliband, who raised Britain's policy on ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** at Prime Minister's Questions, said he was "somewhat encouraged" by Mr Cameron's answer and that the Government was "gradually inching forward" on the issue.

But he appealed to Mr Cameron to go further by opening discussions with the UN, which wants to resettle 30,000 refugees in western countries.  The Labour leader said Britain did not have to choose between giving aid and accepting refugees and should do both.

Mr Cameron replied: "I don't believe you can solve a refugee crisis of this scale -- when you've got almost half the 9m population of Syria either displaced or at risk of displacement -with a quota system where countries are taking a few hundred refugees."

Syria peace talks: John Kerry leads calls for removal of Assad

The Prime Minister said Britain's £600m of aid made it the second largest donor and accused some EU countries of accepting a small number of refugees rather than pledging money for the humanitarian effort on the ground.  "I think we are fulfilling our moral obligations to the people of Syria," he said. "The fact that the Finns, the French or the Swedes are going to take a few hundred people, that is not fulfilling your obligations."

Amnesty International welcomed Mr Cameron's new approach and offered talks with the Government to see how the most vulnerable refugees could be helped. Kate Allen, its director, said: "Up until now the UK has shamefully refused to participate at all in the UN resettlement scheme.  It's a huge relief that the Prime Minister is now prepared to revisit this issue and we must move swiftly to offer lifesaving protection."

World News in Pictures

**Load-Date:** January 23, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Germany's 'welcome culture' fades as thousands continue to arrive; Patience is running out in the border town ofPassau which has borne the brunt of the influx*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H3F-TN81-F021-600N-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 7, 2015 Wednesday 9:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 911 words

**Byline:** tony paterson

**Body**

Inside a converted Oktoberfest beer tent at the back of Passau's train station 300 bewildered and exhausted refugees sat penned behind steel barriers as they awaited so-called "Fast ID" registration.

They were the latest to arrive in the German town on Austria's border which has become one of the main entry points for migrants. As two young voluntary workers tried to hand out drinks, a group of Syrians and their small children suddenly stood up and started to move towards the beer tent door and a waiting bus outside.

But this act of apparent insubordination was too much for one uniformed police officer, who leapt on to a bench and screamed: "Sit down! Don't move!" Worn out by weeks of refugee duty, his temper had snapped. The refugee children started crying.

Passau's railway station has a sign proclaiming: "Refugees Welcome". But apart from the police, there was no one to greet the thousands of migrants arriving this week. "It's not like a month ago when lots of ordinary people would come and applaud when they arrived," admitted Commissioner Albert Poerschke, the city's police spokesman on refugees. "The welcome culture seems to have evaporated. We waiting for the rest of Europe to help us solve the crisis," he told

The Independent

.

Read more

Erdogan shames EU with Turkish stance on ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Germany expecting 1.5 million refugees by end of 2015

Oktoberfest hit by falling numbers due to increased border controls

The absence of this "welcome culture", which Chancellor Angela Merkel called for at the start of the refugee crisis in September was also palpable on the streets of Passau - an idyllic 18th-century Danube town dubbed "Bavaria's Venice". Anton, a hotel receptionist, who did not want to reveal his surname was adamant: "Of course we have to help them, but I think we will lose our German culture if they don't stop coming in. It is too much. Maybe we would build a wall around Passau," he told

The Independent

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Since Germany started introducing police controls on its borders with Austria and the Czech Republic in mid-September, the Bavarian border towns of Passau and Rosenheim have borne the brunt of Germany's refugee influx. According to a leaked government report, the number of asylum applications is expected to reach 1.5 million this year - almost double the estimated 800,000.

Bavaria alone has taken in 225,000 refugees since the beginning of September. Almost half have passed through Passau, which is accepting between 1,000 and 5,000 new arrivals each day. Jürgen Dupper, the city's Social Democrat mayor describes the town's predicament as "very, very dramatic" and has demanded better border controls. Yet the influx shows no sign of abating.

A survey of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who have made it to Germany concluded that the main reason for their flight was fear of President Bashar al-Assad. More than 90 per cent were fleeing the fighting, with two-thirds blaming the Assad government. Only 32 per cent said they were fleeing Isis.

One-third of the refugees arrive in Germany by train; the rest enter from Austria by road, and often on foot. The Austrians are reported to be handing each refugee a map showing where the German border is. "Many ask us whether they are in Australia," an Austrian police spokesman was quoted as saying. "About 80 percent of the Syrian and Afghan refugees don't know where or what Austria is. That's why they want to go to Germany," he added.

A Syrian family of four travel by train from Vienna to Passau (EPA)

But opinion polls suggest the German public is becoming increasingly frustrated at what many see as the failure of Ms Merkel's government to stem the influx. A survey published on Monday by Germany's Market and Social Research group showed that 59 per cent of Germans thought Ms Merkel was wrong to allow refugees to arrive unhindered from Hungary at the end of August. A month ago 66 percent thought the Chancellor was doing the right thing. The polls also show that a large majority of Germans now want the influx stopped.

Ms Merkel is also under intense political pressure to end her "open door" refugee policy. This week an open letter signed by 34 of her conservative MPs and state politicians complained that the refugee crisis was becoming unbearable. On Tuesday, Ms Merkel announced plans to set up a special refugee crisis unit.

Whether the measure will better the lot of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** like 30-year-old Ali Nabo is questionable. After a three-week journey with his wife and three young daughters from the Syrian city of Homs, he stood in a filthy coat in the Oktoberfest beer tent. He and his family had to ditch all their belongings during their sea crossing from Turkey to Greece as they feared their rubber boat would sink. Now he was worried he would be separated from his wife and children. What seemed like the first big smile for a long time shone from his face when a policeman reassured him: "We don't split up families."

\* An operation to intercept and seize vessels used by smugglers controlling the trafficking of migrants across the Mediterranean has begun. The second phase of the European Union's Operation Sophia targets the vessels rather than focusing on surveillance and rescues. But questions have already been raised about its likely effectiveness because of doubts that the EU has committed enough ships and manpower to tackle the smugglers.

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*A new frontier in Syria's civil war, but what does future hold for refugees in Lebanon?; With Beirut restricting its borders, Robert Fisk asks if the million-plus displaced people already there have any real hope of returning home*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BS9-BG11-J9YR-G011-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 7, 2015 Wednesday 10:20 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 926 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

Isis is destroying the old Sykes-Picot border between Syria and Iraq, but Lebanon - its population diluted by refugees - is reinforcing its old French-created frontier with Syria. Not since 1943, when the French gave Lebanon its theoretical independence, has a Syrian citizen been forced to obtain a Lebanese visa to cross a border that for hundreds of years did not exist.

A quarter of Lebanon's population is now Syrian and although the refugee flow will continue - the Lebanese army can no more guard the smugglers' trails of misery leading from Syria's civil war than they can prevent Isis from making forays into Lebanon - Syrian citizens arriving at the formal immigration post at Masnaa must now seek business, education, tourism or transit visas to enter. Tourist visas must be accompanied by a hotel reservation and proof that the traveller has £1,000. But permits will be given automatically to Syrians who own property in Lebanon. In other words, the rich - as usual - will pass more easily than the poor.

But none watch this influx of Syria's huddled masses with more social, political and historical interest than the Palestinian refugees who fled - or whose parents or grandparents fled - Palestine in 1948, victims of fear and massacre at the time of Israel's creation. Perhaps a quarter of the 750,000 refugees sought refuge in Lebanon then, believing - as many Syrians assume today - that they would be able to return "home" within days or months, if not years.

And since the Palestinians and their descendants in Lebanon - whose figures may have reached 350,000, and then diminished through further exile to nearer 200,000 - were treated with initial kindness, but then with suspicion, fear and ultimately hostility, one can only wonder how the 1.15 million registered ***Syrian refugees*** in Lebanon today will be regarded in future. Christian militias cruelly blamed the Palestinians for the 1975-90 civil war and feared that the country's minority Sunni community would become all-powerful if the Palestinian refugees, the majority of them also Sunnis, were to become citizens. UN refugee statistics suggest that 30 per cent of the world's refugees never return home. So how will Lebanon cope, even now, with perhaps 35 per cent of its occupants of Syrian nationality, most of them also Sunnis?

The figures are by nature vague. Besides 1.15 million UN-registered ***Syrian refugees***, there are 12,500 waiting for registration in Lebanon, and perhaps another half million long-term Syrian residents or migrant workers - many of whom are children engaged in virtual slave labour in the fields of the Bekaa Valley. The total refugee population of Lebanon, including Syrians and Palestinians, might come close to 1,750,000.

Despite some outrageous rents, Christian-imposed curfews of poor Syrians living in mountain villages, and some intimidation of refugees in poorer areas of Beirut, the Lebanese have been remarkably kind to their Syrian brothers and sisters, perhaps mindful of the generosity of a peaceful Syria which received hundreds of thousands of Lebanese refugees during their civil war - and even more refugees from Iraq after America's 2003 invasion. Elaborate schemes have been introduced to educate Syrian children in Lebanese schools - taking into account the salient fact that Syrian educational standards are lower than those in Lebanon. Many Lebanese work without pay to help teach children in the UN-created tent refugee schools in the Bekaa Valley.

But there is no disguising the real - and, dare one say, understandable - anger directed at the Syrian rebel militias, who have used the Lebanese border as a sanctuary from Bashar al-Assad's army and also captured 29 Lebanese troops and police in the town of Arsal, three of whom they have murdered. The rest are now threatened with beheading. Weeks of street fighting between the army and Sunni militants in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli have further damaged relations between Sunnis and Shia inside Lebanon - not least because the Shia Hezbollah militia is fighting alongside Assad's men inside Syria. Why, Lebanon's Sunnis have asked repeatedly, is the Lebanese army arresting armed Sunnis in Tripoli and imprisoning members of Sunni militias, yet allowing armed Shia Hezbollah members to patrol parts of Lebanon's border and to pass freely across the same frontier to fight for Assad?

The answer is painful: because Hezbollah largely leaves Lebanese Sunnis alone, but an armed Sunni community might go to war with Hezbollah. Assad's forces hold almost all the territory north and east of Damascus. A large-scale battle between Lebanese Sunnis and Assad's army, loyal to a Shia Alawite president, would bring Syria's civil war into Lebanon. In pictures: Global refugee crisis

Unfortunately, history takes a back seat. Few outside Lebanon realise that before France partitioned Syria - a division opposed by a majority in the "new" Lebanon - Tripoli was the business hinterland of much of central Syria. Hundreds of thousands of Tripolitanians are related to Syrians who live in and around Homs. The French post-Great War border divided villages - as if by way of compensation, the French often built beautiful bridges between the two parts of each village, so that families could still cross the rivers that formed the new frontier.

Dreamers in the State Department may still demand strict sovereign adherence to these fraudulent borders; but that's not quite how the people who live there see the land around them, however many ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are arriving in their midst.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*On Lesbos with the stranded Syrian refugees hoping to make it to Britain: 'We die in the war or we die at sea'; 'When we arrived we could see the blue skies and the blue seas, and the Greek people were welcoming us, and we felt free'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9K-91V1-F021-61V6-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 5, 2015 Thursday 10:56 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 665 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

"We die in the war or we die at sea - people are dying either way."

That is the bleak assessment of the risks of journeying to Europe by a Syrian woman who arrived on the shores of a Greek island yesterday with her husband and children.

Read more

Lesbos mayor on coping with up to 7,000 new refugees each day

Asma, who did not want to give her second name, was part of a family group of 17 who had been sent across the Aegean Sea by smugglers in Turkey at dawn.

The Independent

met them as they sat on the ground at the Oxy transit camp in Lesbos, waiting for a bus to take them to a registration centre after walking for several hours from the beach.

Asma, in her 30s,and her niece Alaa sat in the centre of the group surrounded by playing children and talking relatives.

"We've seen Germany on the news and heard it is taking people but my husband wants to go to Britain

They described being forced into a dinghy under the cover of darkness by smugglers who beat them and pushed the children, ranging from one-to-10-years-old.

"When we left Turkey, we felt like we were going to die," Asma said. "But when we arrived we could see the blue skies and the blue seas, and the Greek people were welcoming us, and we felt free."

Dawn on Wednesday was the first time any of the family had seen the sea.

Alaa said they had lived in a Turkish refugee camp for four years after fleeing Deir Ezzor as the civil war broke out in 2011.

Refugees crowd a road looking over the Aegean near the Oxy transit camp on the island of Lesbos

Life became "too difficult" there, she said, with the young family struggling with the cold, supplies and being unable to work.

When asked where they were heading, Asma said with a smile: "Maybe Germany, maybe Britain."

"We've seen Germany on the news and heard it is taking people but my husband wants to go to Britain," she added.

"He says there's a future there and we can work. We already speak a bit of English and our children can learn it so we'd prefer that."

The mother said they are aware of the difficulty of the journey through Europe, where Hungary has closed its borders to asylum seekers and other countries are threatening to do the same to stem the flow of more than 700,000 people so far this year.

Asma said she knew that Britain was particularly hard to get to but that they were prepared to go through France and take their chance at Calais.

Her family was among hundreds of people waiting at Oxy on Wednesday, with some lying on the pavements and in the road at a beauty spot overlooking Lesbos' northern coastline and Turkey.

The ground is covered by blankets and rugs, with new arrivals hanging their wet clothes to dry on fences and road safety barriers while they rest.

Read more

Yvette Cooper slams EU's failure to help refugees in Lesbos

Refugee baby born on beach in Lesbos after mother arrives in boat

Lesbos: Holidays continue as normal... as does flow of refugees

The spot is overlooked by a night club known for its summer parties and great views by locals, and is also a designated site for tourists' birdwatching.

Staffed by the UN, aid agencies, charities and local volunteers, Oxy now sees thousands of asylum seekers pass through while waiting for buses to registration centres in the south of Lesbos.

People stay in temporary refugee camps while hoping for a quick transfer on to the Greek government's ferries to the mainland, where they can continue through the Balkans to reach Western Europe.

But with no ferries running from Lesbos' main port during a strike that started on Monday, numbers were swelling at the camps and in the harbour, where stranded families were sleeping with no shelter on the pavements and in roads.

Meanwhile, overloading boats continued to arrive across the Aegean Sea today, risking further disasters and drownings following the deaths of at least five people, including three children, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*US-led coalition jets strike Isis targets in Kobani as militant launch strikes across boreder into Turkey; The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said US-led forces bombing Isis in Syria killed 10 civilians in two separate air strikes*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DD0-5PW1-JCJY-G43M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 18, 2014 Saturday 5:35 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 867 words

**Byline:** Humeyra Pamuk, Oliver Holmes

**Body**

US-led coalition jets pounded suspected Islamic State targets at least six times in the besieged Syrian town of Kobani today after the fiercest shelling in days by the insurgents shook the town's centre and hit border areas within Turkey.

Shelling continued after the strikes hit the centre of Kobani. Several mortars fell inside Turkey near the border gate, called Mursitpinar, according to witnesses.

Isis militants have battled Kurdish fighters for a month to take control of Kobani and consolidate a 60 mile stretch of land they control along the Turkish border, but stepped-up air strikes in recent days have helped Kurds fend off the advance.

The coalition has been bombing Isis (also know as Islamic State) targets in Iraq since August and extended the campaign to Syria in September after Isis, a group that espouses a rigid interpretation of Islam and initially focused on fighting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces, made huge territorial gains.

Nato member Turkey is a somewhat reluctant member of the coalition, insisting it must also confront Assad to end a civil war that has killed some 200,000 civilians since March 2011.

On Saturday, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said US-led forces bombing Isis in Syria killed 10 civilians in two separate air strikes.

But US Central Command said there was no evidence to back up the report. Its forces use mitigation measures to reduce the potential for civilian casualties, a spokesman said.

Reuters cannot independently confirm the reports due to security restrictions.

In Kobani, a commander for the YPG, the Syrian Kurdish militia defending Kobani, who would only gave her code name Dicle, said Isis' renewed attacks were aimed at severing the town's last link with Turkey.

"They want to cut off Kobani's connection with the rest of the world," she told Reuters by telephone. "Turkey is not allowing in fighters or weapons, but they send aid at Mursitpinar. The Islamic State wants to destroy this gate so that we will be completely trapped here."

Turkey has refused to rearm beleaguered Kurdish fighters, who complain they are at huge disadvantage in the face of Islamic State's weaponry, many of it seized from the Iraqi military when it took the city of Mosul in June.

Turkey views the YPG with suspicion for its long-standing links with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has waged a 30-year armed campaign for self-rule in Turkey.

President Tayyip Erdogan said earlier this month the PKK was no better than Isis in his view.

This stance sparked outrage among Turkey's own Kurds, who make up about 20 percent of the population. Riots in several cities earlier this month killed more than 35 people.

The Syrian Observatory said Isis had launched at least 21 mortar attacks on Saturday close to the border.

Abdulrahman Gok, a journalist inside Kobani, said by telephone said the fighting was the worst in two days. "In the past hour, the shelling has intensified. They are firing almost one every two minutes," he said, adding that the insurgents were aiming at the east side of town towards the Mursitpinar gate.

A cloud of black smoke towered over the centre of Kobani following the latest air strike as the roar of fighter jets could be heard from a blue sky. Gunfire popped in the west and centre of town.

Elsewhere in Syria, government forces shelled neighbourhoods in Damascus, the southern province of Deraa and the central province of Homs, opposition activists said.

Army helicopters were dropping improvised barrel bombs on the town of Khan Sheikhoun, in northwest Idlib province, which also borders Turkey, they said.

Islamic State supporters circulated what they said was a nine-second video clip of a fighter jet said to be flown by Isis militants.

The Observatory reported that Iraqi pilots who have joined Isis in Syria were training members of the group to fly in three captured fighter jets over the captured al-Jarrah military airport east of Aleppo.

US Central Command said on Friday that it was not aware of Isis flying jets in Syria. Reuters could not confirm the authenticity of the footage, which showed a jet flying at low altitude.

Meanwhile, the United Nations said the Lebanese government has cut back sharply on the number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** it is allowing into the country. The country's Social Affairs Minister Rashid Derbas said in comments published a newspaper: "Lebanon is no longer officially receiving any ***Syrian*** ***refugees***," except with those with pressing humanitarian needs.

Lebanon has the highest per capita concentration of refugees in the world, with one in four residents a refugee, many of them living in the poorest areas, and the government has said it cannot cope with the more than a million Syrians and has asked for funds to help look after them.

Turkey hosts about 1.5 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, including almost 200,000 Syrian Kurds from Kobani.

Amid the escalated fighting, Turkish trucks could be seen carrying about two dozen Kurdish refugees away from the border.

Several hundred people are still sheltering in a minefield to the west of Kobani in order to stay with their vehicles and farm animals, which are not allowed in Turkey.

Reuters

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2014

**End of Document**



[*For centuries, every Syrian had a right of passage to Lebanon. Not any more; With Beirut now enforcing its border, ROBERT FISK wonders if the million-plus who got across have any hope of returning*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5F14-SW21-F072-41SS-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 7, 2015 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 28

**Length:** 920 words

**Byline:** ROBERT FISK

**Body**

Isis is destroying the old Sykes-Picot border between Syria and Iraq, but Lebanon - its population diluted by refugees - is reinforcing its old French-created frontier with Syria. Not since 1943, when the French gave Lebanon its theoretical independence, has a Syrian citizen been forced to obtain a Lebanese visa to cross a border that for hundreds of years did not exist.

A quarter of Lebanon's population is now Syrian and although the refugee flow will continue - the Lebanese army can no more guard the smugglers' trails of misery leading from Syria's civil war than they can prevent Isis from making forays into Lebanon - Syrian citizens arriving at the formal immigration post at Masnaa must now seek business, education, tourism or transit visas to enter. Tourist visas must be accompanied by a hotel reservation and proof that the traveller has £1,000. But permits will be given automatically to Syrians who own property in Lebanon. In other words, the rich - as usual - will pass more easily than the poor.

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And since the Palestinians and their descendants in Lebanon - whose figures may have reached 350,000, and then diminished through further exile to nearer 200,000 - were treated with initial kindness, but then with suspicion, fear and ultimately hostility, one can only wonder how the 1.15 million registered ***Syrian refugees*** in Lebanon today will be regarded in future. Christian militias cruelly blamed the Palestinians for the 1975-90 civil war and feared that the country's minority Sunni community would become all-powerful if the Palestinian refugees, the majority of them also Sunnis, were to become citizens. UN refugee statistics suggest that 30 per cent of the world's refugees never return home. So how will Lebanon cope, even now, with perhaps 35 per cent of its occupants of Syrian nationality, most of them also Sunnis?

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But there is no disguising the real - and, dare one say, understandable - anger directed at the Syrian rebel militias, who have used the Lebanese border as a sanctuary from Bashar al-Assad's army and also captured 29 Lebanese troops and police in the town of Arsal, three of whom they have murdered. The rest are now threatened with beheading. Weeks of street fighting between the army and Sunni militants in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli have further damaged relations between Sunnis and Shia inside Lebanon - not least because the Shia Hezbollah militia is fighting alongside Assad's men inside Syria. Why, Lebanon's Sunnis have asked repeatedly, is the Lebanese army arresting armed Sunnis in Tripoli and imprisoning members of Sunni militias, yet allowing armed Shia Hezbollah members to patrol parts of Lebanon's border and to pass freely across the same frontier to fight for Assad?

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**Load-Date:** January 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*On Lesbos with the stranded Syrian refugees hoping to make it to Britain: 'We die in the war or we die at sea'; "When we arrived we could see the blue skies and the blue seas, and the Greek people were welcoming us, and we felt free."*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9K-91V1-F021-61V5-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 5, 2015 Thursday 10:02 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 665 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

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Read more

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They described being forced into a dinghy under the cover of darkness by smugglers who beat them and pushed the children, ranging from one to 10 years old.

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Refugees crowd a road looking over the Aegean near the Oxy transit camp on the island of Lesbos

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When asked where they were heading, Asma said with a smile: "Maybe Germany, maybe Britain."

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Read more

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**Load-Date:** November 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Kerry: we won't save Kobani; The US Secretary of State says that preventing the fall of the Syrian town is not a strategic objective. But there is still no sign that Turkey will step in to stop Isis gaining a foothold on its border. ISABEL HUNTER reports from Suruc*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D9Y-7TV1-F072-43K2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

October 9, 2014 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 27

**Length:** 884 words

**Byline:** ISABEL HUNTER

**Body**

The civil war in Syria rocked Turkey - a Nato member state - yesterday when riots broke out in a number of cities, opening age-old wounds between Turks and Kurds.

As officials in Ankara continued to debate whether to take an active role in the fight against Isis, rival factions stirred old enmities. The country was rocked by explosive clashes in more than 20 cities as Kurds protested against the government's perceived inaction over the plight of those living in the Kurdish city of Kobani, just a few miles inside Syrian territory.

Turkish tanks have lined up opposite Kobani, to guard against any incursion across the border by Isis fighters, but there seems to be little appetite to enter the besieged city to help the Kurdish population inside.

Turkey has taken in more than 180,000 refugees who fled Kobani, but has stopped short of joining a US-led coalition against the Sunni militants. Instead, it has called for the creation of a buffer zone and a no-fly zone, which it hopes would secure its border and limit the flow of refugees. The proposal has been rebuffed by the Americans.

Speaking last night, the US Secretary of State, John Kerry, suggested that preventing the fall of Kobani was not a strategic US objective. "As horrific as it is to watch in real time what is happening in Kobani, you have to step back and understand the strategic objective," he said.

"Notwithstanding the crisis in Kobani, the original targets of our efforts have been the command and control centres, the infrastructure."

Mr Kerry said he expected Turkey to decide "over the next hours, days" what role it would play against Isis.

The lack of assistance for Kurds in Kobani sparked violent demonstrations across Turkey yesterday. At least 19 people died as Kurdish protesters threw Molotov cocktails and rocks at police. They were met with tear gas, sticks and water cannons.

The south-eastern city of Diyarbakir, the de facto Kurdish capital in Turkey, suffered the worst violence and highest death toll.

A curfew was extended until today after at least eight people died during the protests.

Diyarbakir is one of six cities that remained on lockdown last night. "The city is under curfew until 6am and nobody can come in or out. There were no police on our streets last night - just us and them," said Bayram Baran, a 25-year-old lawyer from Diyarbakir.

To further complicate Turkey's political patchwork, much of the violence occurred between rival Kurdish factions, who attacked each other as well as local branches of several parties, including the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP).

While the political actors debated the future of the city, the battle for Kobani continued to rage as a flurry of US air strikes appeared to temporarily halt the advance of Isis.

Several thunderous booms were followed by mushroom clouds clearly visible from the Turkish side of the border.

Only a mile away, the Turkish town of Caykara rocked as explosion after explosion - each one louder than the last - hit Kobani.

Men watching the battle from the roof of the local mosque shouted: "Long live America. Long live America", believing they were hearing US air strikes.

The low whirr of aircraft could be heard before the crashes. The strikes appeared to be helping Kurdish fighters, reportedly hitting a hospital used by Isis as a base in the east of the city, in which they already have a foothold. The People's Protection Units (YPG), the Syrian franchise of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), have been defending the city.

The battle concentrated on the eastern side as dusk fell last night, with YPG fighters and Isis militants clashing in street-by-street fighting.

"Isis tried to enter the city today with tanks, and a big truck full of weapons to bomb the YPG in the centre, but YPG were ready and they blew up the truck at about 4pm local time," Zara Misto, editor of Welati.com, who has been reporting from inside Kobani since the beginning of the battle, told The Independent.

Kurds in the nearby town of Suruc took to the streets again last night, this time to support those living in Kobani.

Ekrem Ahmad, 40, a mechanic from Kobani said: "I'm happy to see Kurds as well as British, American, French and German people protesting in support of Kobani. It really raises our morale.

"The governments may not give us weapons, but their people give us hope."

**REFUGEE CRISIS**

**1.5 MILLION SYRIANS IN TURKEY**

More than a million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Turkey may go without food, medicine and shelter unless there is an increase in international funding, a UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees) spokeswoman said.

Already struggling to cope with the refugees before the attack on the border town of Kobani began, the inflow has now far exceeded the international support Turkey has received, she added. More than 180,000 residents of Kobani fled to Turkey as Isis fighters closed in over the past three weeks. "The basic needs of the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** vastly outweigh the support and funding from the international community," she said. The majority of the 1.5 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Turkey live outside refugee camps, and she said this was one of the biggest challenges facing the country.

"This means more than a million Syrians are in temporary shelters like mosques, schools and parks." REUTERS

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Record numbers of refugees fleeing United States for Canada; Charities are warning an even greater influx could be on the horizon with Donald Trump in the White House*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MTP-X181-F021-626V-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 7, 2017 Tuesday 5:51 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 615 words

**Byline:** Lucy Pasha-Robinson

**Body**

Record numbers of refugees in the US are fleeing to Canada as uncertainty about Donald Trump's immigration policies continues.

The Welcome Place refugee agency in the central province of Manitoba, said it had helped 91 people since November, more than the total number of claimants it normally sees in a year.

Most braved freezing conditions to cross the border, walking miles through snow-covered prairie fields into Canada so they could avoid official border checks.

Maggie Yeboah, president of the Ghanaian Union of Manitoba, said that two men lost all their fingers to frostbite in December and nearly froze to death.

Read more

Justin Trudeau says refugees are welcome in Canada

Trump fails to mention white man who killed six Muslims in Quebec

Donald Trump tweeted about The Louvre- Nothing about Quebec

Canadians raise £350,000 for Muslims affected by mosque shooting

"We haven't had something before like this," she said. "We don't know what to do."

She added that 27 Ghanaian men had walked to Manitoba from the United States since last summer. Her organisation helps refugees access medical attention and housing.

Charities are now warning that an even greater influx could be on the horizon after Donald Trump issued an executive order temporarily suspending America's refugee resettlement programme and permanently barring ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US.

The measures,which have since been suspended, also barred citizens from Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Syria, from travelling to the US. It resulted in travellers being detained or deported even if they had a valid visa or green card.

"They will make a dash for Canada, whether they are going to go through cold weather to die or not," said Abdikheir Ahmed, a Somali immigrant in Manitoba's capital Winnipeg who helps refugees make immigration claims.

Read more

Thousands attend funeral for Quebec mosque shooting victims

More than 7,000 refugee applicants entered Canada in 2016 through land ports of entry from the United States, up 63 per cent from the previous year, according to theCanada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

Over 2,000 more entered "irregularly" during a similar time period, without official authorization. Somecrossed unmonitored fields along the 5,525 border - the longest in the world between two countries.

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to admitting tens of thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** when he took office in 2015.

To those fleeing persecution, terror & war, Canadians will welcome you, regardless of your faith. Diversity is our strength #WelcomeToCanada

- Justin Trudeau (@JustinTrudeau) 28 January 2017

"While the majority of the world is turning their backs and building walls, the fact that Trudeau took this bold humanitarian goal put [Canada] on the map," said Chris Friesen, director of settlement services at Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia.

But this year, Canada plans to take only 7,500 government-assisted refugees - less than half last year's number. People eager to sponsor refugees find themselves waiting years to do so.

Canadian Council for Refugees, Amnesty International and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, are demanding Canada abandon the Safe Third Country Agreement that requires people to apply for asylum in the first of the two countries they arrive in.

However, the government is standing by the agreement, Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen told Canada's House of Commons last week.

Canadian Council for Refugees executive director Janet Dench said if the government refuses to act, her group will sue.

"We are talking about people's charter rights...so, yes, we would expect to see something in the courts," she said.

**Load-Date:** February 7, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Theresa May refuses to condemn Donald Trump immigration ban; 'The United States is responsible for the United States' policy on refugees,'Prime Minister says*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRK-5TB1-JCJY-G4CG-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 4:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 620 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Theresa May has refused to condemn Donald Trump's ban on refugees and entry for citizens of seven Muslim-majority nations after meeting with the Turkish President.

She was speaking just a day after meeting the new President in Washington , where the pair pledged their commitment to the "special relationship" between Britain and the US.

After agreeing a controversial £100 million fighter jet deal amid wide-ranging purges and security crackdowns following an attempted coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Ms May held a joint press conference with Prime Minister Binali Yildirim.

When May met Trump - five key points from the leaders' press conference

Their talks were overshadowed by global debate over Mr Trump's executive order to ban ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US indefinitely, halt all other asylum admissions for 120 days and suspended travel visas for citizens of "countries of particular concern", including Syria, Iraq and other Muslim-majority nations.

Read more

Iraqi refugee targeted for helping US military detained at JFK airport

May agrees fighter jet deal with Erdogan despite human rights abuse

Most Isis victims Muslims despite Trump's plan for Christian refugees

​Faisal Islam, the political editor of

Sky News

, asked Ms May whether she viewed it as an "action of the leader of the free world".

The Prime Minister replied that she was "very pleased" to have met Mr Trump in Washington, before evading the question by hailing Turkey's reception of millions of refugees and Britain's support for its government and other nations surrounding Syria.

When pressed for a second time for her view by another British journalist, Ms May continued: "The United States is responsible for the United States' policy on refugees, the United Kingdom is responsible for the United Kingdom's policy on refugees."

Mr Yildirim was more direct, calling the crisis a global issue and saying thatUN members "cannot turn a blind eye to this issue and settle it by constructing walls".

"Nobody leaves their homes for nothing, they came here to save their lives and our doors were open...and we would do it again," he added. "If there is someone in need, you need to give them a helping hand to make sure they survive."

The Turkish Prime Minister brushed aside a question about wide-ranging human rights abuses in Turkey following the summer's attempted coup, seeing thousands of people arrested or forced to leave government and military posts amid reports of torture in state prisons.

Mr Trump has suspended all refugee admissions to the US for 120 days as part of measures he claimed would "keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the US".

His order additionally banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely until "significant changes" are made, and halved the annual cap on refugees to 50,000.

Read more

Most Isis victims Muslims despite Trump's plan for Christian refugees

The President's executive order also suspends travel visas for anyone from seven predominantly Muslim countries, including Syria, Iraq, Libya and Iran, from entering the US for at least 90 days.

He claimed his administration needed time to develop more stringent screening processes for refugees, immigrants and visitors.

It provoked outcry from the United Nations andNGOs working to stem the worst ever global refugee crisis, with more than 65 million people forced to flee their homes.

Amnesty International warned the move could have "catastrophic consequences", saying some of the worst fears about a Trump presidency were already being realised.

Salil Shetty, the group's secretary general, said: "These men, women and children are the victims of the same terror President Trump claims he wants to fight against. The irony beggars belief."

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Internet responds to Donald Trump Jr's comparison between refugees and Skittles 'that could kill you'; 'If you had a family of Trumps and one of them couldn't tell the difference between poisoned candy and people, would you vote one for President?' a Twitter user asked*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KRT-TM21-F021-61V3-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 20, 2016 Tuesday 8:13 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 1000 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

As outrage continues over comments made by Donald Trump's son comparing refugees to deadly Skittles, social media users have been offering their own versions of the meme.

Donald Trump Jr shared an image carrying official campaign branding on Monday, in support of his father's Presidential campaign.

"If I had a bowl of skittles and I told you just three would kill you, would you take a handful?" it said. "That's our Syrian refugee problem."

This image says it all. Let's end the politically correct agenda that doesn't put America first. #trump2016pic.twitter.com/9fHwog7ssN

- Donald Trump Jr. (@DonaldJTrumpJr) September 19, 2016

The image, including a bowl of sweets and the slogan "Make America great again!", was accompanied by a comment by Mr Trump's son saying: "This image says it all. Let's end the politically correct agenda that doesn't put America first."

Read more

Donald Trump Jr provokes outrage after comparing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** 'to Skittles that could kill you'

Donald Trump calls for racial profiling of terror suspects after New York and New Jersey bombings

Nigel Farage dismisses Donald Trump's anti-immigration rhetoric and says he will win US Elections

His comments swiftly sparked criticism, including from a former Republican Congressman and right-wing radio host who accused him of repeating his own comments.

Sharing one of his own tweets, Joe Walsh wrote: "Hey @DonaldJTrumpJr, that's the point I made last month. Glad you agree."

On 13 August, he had written: "If I had a bowl of Skittles and told you 3 of them would kill you: Would you eat a handful? No? This is our refugee problem."

Many Twitter users were offering their own versions of the Skittles meme to challenge Mr Trump Jr:

Good point pic.twitter.com/SIiFmjVfc2

- Daniel Lin (@DLin71) September 20, 2016

@DLin71 pic.twitter.com/2k6LJRerLL

- Doc (@R3515T0R) September 20, 2016

People aren't Skittles. pic.twitter.com/1sksSTSRG8

- Amanda Bower (@heyprofbow) September 20, 2016

Do these taste funny to you? #Trump#Skittlespic.twitter.com/m06ZptR9uT

- HappyToast \* (@IamHappyToast) September 20, 2016

Others were in little doubt over what they would do in the situation:

Trump: if I had a bowl of Skittles and I told you just three would kill you, would you take a handful?

Me: pic.twitter.com/qFv7pgmOQp

- David Lewis (@davidclewis) September 20, 2016

I'd eat the handful of Skittles.

- Joe Miragliotta (@JoesDaily) September 20, 2016

Eat all the skittles

- Streetcrow (@streetcrow) September 20, 2016

yes I would still eat the skittles

- RT 4 Food Awareness (@FoodAwarenessRT) September 20, 2016

yes i would eat the skittles because skittles are delicious

- your friend (@hancxck) September 20, 2016

Many were drawing attention to the plight of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***:

Hey @DonaldJTrumpJr, this is one of the millions of children you compared to a poisoned Skittle today: [*https://t.co/SDSGw0eUIPpic.twitter.com/HuhY9RGvWW*](https://t.co/SDSGw0eUIPpic.twitter.com/HuhY9RGvWW)

- Jon Favreau (@jonfavs) September 20, 2016

Refugees are people. People like these boys-innocents caught in war. You're a father, show some damn compassion./13x pic.twitter.com/XsTGyWxHM5

- Andrew Seidel (@AndrewLSeidel) September 20, 2016

.@DonaldJTrumpJr I met these #Skittles in the Jordanian desert. You're right, they're way too dangerous. We should just ignore them. pic.twitter.com/hJMX4svCKY

- John Haltiwanger (@jchaltiwanger) September 20, 2016

Even if we did bring in a few bad Skittles - and there's no evidence we do - you take that risk to save these Skittles, you monstrous dope. pic.twitter.com/KpA7Mnl8Nm

- Rex Huppke (@RexHuppke) September 20, 2016

.@DonaldJTrumpJr these are your Skittles, you heartless, ignorant coward. [*https://t.co/XjKALIx1Oa*](https://t.co/XjKALIx1Oa)

- John Haltiwanger (@jchaltiwanger) September 20, 2016

Skittles. pic.twitter.com/inCjwrwzfd

- Nish Weiseth (@NishWeiseth) September 20, 2016

Several were disappointed that the Twitter trend was not actually about sweets:

Damn, way to ruin Skittles...

- kevin yee (@kevinyeedotcom) September 20, 2016

Me: "oh, did Skittles get a new flavor?"

\*clicks trending topic\* pic.twitter.com/c3wG3CW35z

- Charles (@MrLXC) September 20, 2016

I just looked at why Skittles is trending. pic.twitter.com/VkaFGKNDk6

- Maggie Serota (@maggieserota) September 20, 2016

\*Sees Skittles is trending\*

\*hoping for a new flavour\*

\*cries @ why it's actually trending\*

- Shelby Houck (@ShelbyHouck) September 20, 2016

When you see that #Skittles are trending & then you find out that it's because Trump found a new way to say something stupid about people. pic.twitter.com/BDeu0IR420

- Sarah Rumpf (@rumpfshaker) September 20, 2016

And lot of people seemed concerned for Skittles' public relations team:

Meanwhile, at Skittles corporate... pic.twitter.com/COuvlQCwd8

- Luke O'Neil (@lukeoneil47) September 20, 2016

A moment of silence for the poor @Skittles social media intern stuck in the aftermath of Trump idiocy.

You hang in there Skittlesperson.

- Exorcising Emily (@exorcisingemily) September 20, 2016

"I would very much like to be excluded from this narrative" - Skittles PR, probably

- Salena (@Salencita) September 20, 2016

man, imagine the email thread going on with the skittles social media and marketing team right now

- Max Read (@max\_read) September 20, 2016

Skittles PR team staring at Twitter rn pic.twitter.com/lCWaho0C6O

- Marcus Gilmer (@marcusgilmer) September 20, 2016

Denise Young, Vice President of corporate affairs at manufacturers Wrigley Americas gave a response on behalf of the company.

She said: "Skittles are candy. Refugees are people. We don't feel it's an appropriate analogy."

Mr Trump has sparked several rounds of controversy with his policies on refugees and immigration, including repeated proposals to build a wall along the Mexican border and a vow to ban all Muslims from entering the US, which he has since backed down on.

He has repeatedly suggested that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** fleeing the country's civil war are a terror threat, calling them a "Trojan horse" in November, before winning the Republican nomination.

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugees in New Zealand told to subscribe to Kiwi values; New Zealand Immigration Minister says refugees must follow Kiwi practices,*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K21-VFG1-F021-63PR-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 19, 2016 Sunday 6:39 PM GMT

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**Section:** AUSTRALASIA

**Length:** 582 words

**Byline:** Elsa Vulliamy

**Body**

New Zealand has increased itsrefugee quota from 750 to 1,000 per year - and said they shouldsubscribe to "Kiwi values".

Immigration Minister Michael Woodhouse also confirmedthat backgrounds checks will take place before refugees are allowed to live in New Zealand.

This begins with a simple background check, identifying the individual and their family. If an individual, or a member of their extended family, is connected with "conflict", they will be ruled out on this basis.

Mr Woodhouse also said engaging in certain cultural practices could mean being turned away, for instance those practicing polygamy would be ruled out from a cultural perspective.

In Australia, refugees are required to sign a 'value statement', confirming that they understand and agree to respect Australian values such as tolerance, equality between men and women and freedom of religion.

Read more

Turkish border guards 'kill 11 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***' in indiscriminate shooting

Texas loses battle with US government to bar ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from living in the state

Dutch landlord gives tenants (EURO)100 discount for helping refugees

Refugee crisis: 20 children 'die of thirst after being abandoned by people smugglers' in Niger desert

Refugee Tales: Modern reboot of The Canterbury Tales to tell harrowing refugee stories

David Seymour, the a

cting leader of right-wing Act Party,saidsomething similar should be introduced in New Zealand: "If you're not prepared to sign up, for instance, that you believe men and women should be treated equally, you shouldn't come to New Zealand," he said.

Though Mr Woodhouse agrees that some values, such as monogamy, need to be understood and accepted by refugees, he does not think that a document is necessary for this to happen, as he has found that refugees are eager to embrace New Zealand culture as part of their new identity: "There are tremendously positive signs that these people want to connect with New Zealand society, but at the same time preserve what's good about their society," he said.

Prime Minister John Key agreedthat refugees must subscribe to some Kiwi values when entering New Zealand, but said they shouldn'tbe forced to:"It's good for any person that comes to New Zealand to understand what they're coming to - the place they're coming to and the sort of values and principles that underpin us as a nation.

"My experience of migrants when they come to this country is they become very patriotic Kiwis, and so I don't know whether they need a charter for that," he said.

Refugee crisis - in pictures, by

Iwona Backup

The New Zealand government has been criticised since the announcement of it's increased quota, as campaigners say that increasing the already low number by one third is not good enough. Many have suggested that the government ought to have doubled their initial figure of 750, admitting at least 1500 refugees per year.

Mr Woodhouse says that the low intake numbers reflect a focus on the wellbeing of refugees that are taken in by New Zealand: "Not every refugee does well; in fact they do quite poorly on a social basis.

"We're doing everything we can to improve the outcome for those we do take. As well as increasing the quantity of those we take, we've got to make sure they do well, and that's what we're continuing to focus on."

Mr Woodhouse stressed the importance of tackling barriers to education, paid employment and the learning of the English language - all of which are factors that contribute to social isolation of refugees in Kiwi society.

**Load-Date:** June 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Homegrown terrorists are still the deadliest threat to Americans*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHC-WM41-F021-6549-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 2, 2015 Wednesday 7:33 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 245 words

**Byline:** Justin Carissimo

**Body**

Throughout all the rhetoric and fear-mongering about accepting refugees into the United States, Thanksgiving weekend featured another mass shooting with a familiar face - a white man.

Robert L Dear opened fire inside a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs last week killing three people and injuring nine others. His past allegedviolence against his former wife and former plots to attack the women's rights clinic have surfaced in the days following the attack, the

New York Times

reports.

Still, media and politicians were hestitant to call his planned attack on Planned Parenthood an act of terrorism.

Despite mainstream media coverage and Republican party talking points, homegrown extremists have killed more Americans than jihadists since the September 11 attacks.

Read more

White people are the biggest terror threat in US, report finds

US governors possess no legal authority to refuse ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Fox News claimed the attack in Colorado was a bank robbery

Forty-eight people have been killed by non-Muslim right-wing terroristswhile 31 people have been killed at the hands of self-proclaimed jihadists, according to a recent report by New America, a Washington research firm.

Since 2001, 10 refugees have been arrested on terrorism charges in Americawhile 320 citizens were arrested on the same charges, the study shows.

**Load-Date:** December 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Jo Cox dead: Labour MP fatally shot and stabbed outside constituency surgery in Birstall, West Yorkshire; Husband leads tributes to rising star of Westminster and pledges to 'fight against the hate' that killedher*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K1D-N8G1-F021-60SJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 16, 2016 Thursday 11:11 PM GMT

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**Section:** CRIME

**Length:** 899 words

**Byline:** Oliver Wright

**Body**

MPs from across the political spectrum have set aside their differences to pay tribute to one Parliament's most promising young MPs who was killed in the street in her constituency. Her suspected killer is a man police are investigating for possible far-right links.

Jo Cox, who helped spearhead the campaign to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, was shot three times outside her constituency advice surgery in Birstall, West Yorkshire.

Read more

The Labour MP who campaigned tirelessly for refugee children

The suspect, who was arrested at the scene, was named locally as Thomas Mair, aged 52. He was reported to have shouted "Britain First" during an attack in which he fired three shots from close range while at the same time stabbing the MP with a knife.

Security sources told

The Independent

that police were investigating Mair's possible interest in far-right politics and pro-apartheid South Africa.

Tommy Mair, 52, was detained by police near his home in Birstall, West Yorkshire (SWNS)

David Cameron and Jeremy Corbyn led the tributes to Ms Cox, a mother of two young children, who had only been elected as an MP in 2015.

Ms Cox is the first MP to have been fatally attacked while in office in more than quarter of a century.

Both sides in the European Referendum campaign cancelled events due to be held on Fridayas a mark of respect. Flags across Whitehall were lowered to half mast.

Her husband Brendan said the family was going to work "every moment of our lives" to "fight against the hate that killed Jo".

"Jo believed in a better world and she fought for it everyday of her life with an energy, and a zest for life that would exhaust most people," he said.

"She would have wanted two things above all else to happen now, one that our precious children are bathed in love and two, that we all unite to fight against the hatred that killed her.

"Hate doesn't have a creed, race or religion, it is poisonous."

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was among colleagues from all parties at a vigil for Jo Cox in Parliament Square (AFP)

Mr Corbyn said Ms Cox died "doing her public duty at the heart of our democracy".

Read more

Jo Cox: Sadiq Khan remembers Labour MP who was 'the best of politics'

Jo Cox death: Detained man described by neighbours as a 'loner'

Jo Cox dead: Read the Labour MPs maiden speech to the Commons in full

"In the coming days, there will be questions to answer about how and why she died. But for now all our thoughts are with Jo's husband Brendan and their two young children. They will grow up without their mum, but can be immensely proud of what she did, what she achieved and what she stood for."

Mr Cameron added: "She had a great track record of caring about refugees and had taken a big interest in how we can look after ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and do the right thing in our world. She was a star for her constituents, a star in Parliament and a star right across the House."

Police refused to speculate on what motivation lay behind the attack but witnesses reported hearing her attacker shouting Britain First, which may be a reference to the far right BNP splinter group.

Ms Cox had been a high profile campaigner for the rights of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and was fighting to force the Government to take in more asylum seekers.

Jo Cox MP Maiden Speech

"He was shouting Britain First when he was doing it," said 38 year Graeme Howard.

"He was pinned down by two police officers and she was taken away in an ambulance."

(PA)

Clarke Rothwell, who runs a cafe near the murder scene, added: "He was shouting 'put Britain first'. He shouted it about two or three times."

Britain First is the name of a far-right BNP splinter group. It issued a statement saying it was "not involved and would never encourage behaviour of this sort".

Mair's house was sealed off by police who were guarding the property as forensic officers worked in the garden.

Neighbours said he had lived there for more than 30 years - on his own for the last two decades since the deaths of his mother and grandmother. "He's lived there longer than me and I've lived here since 1975," said one.

"I still can't believe it. He's the last guy I would have thought of. He likes gardening.

"He did a lot of people's gardens round here."

Politicians from across all major parties expressed their shock at Ms Cox's untimely death.

Theresa May said Ms Cox was one of the "brightest and most popular" MPs and the pain her family and friends are suffering is "unimaginable".

"It is entirely appropriate that all campaigning for the referendum has been suspended,"

"All of us are united in our deep sadness at the loss of one of our brightest and most popular Westminster colleagues."

Read more

Remembering the 'bright star' of Westminster Jo Cox

The former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who knows Ms Cox well from when she worked with his wife Sarah, said: "Jo Cox was the most vivacious, personable, dynamic and committed friend you could ever have. Whenever you talked to her, the compassion in her eyes and the commitment in her soul shone through.

"Sarah and I were privileged to work with Jo and her husband Brendan over many years and in her tireless efforts on behalf of poor and desolate children and mothers. She she went to some of the most dangerous places in the world. The last place she should have been in danger was in her home town."

The Ukip leader Nigel Farage said: "Deeply saddened to hear that Jo Cox has died. Sincerest condolences to her family."

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*16 December is the worst date for a birthday, research finds; Almost a third of December babies claim their birthday gets overlooked*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HKX-GKX1-JCJY-G1KP-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 14, 2015 Monday 1:03 PM GMT

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**Section:** LIFESTYLE

**Length:** 201 words

**Byline:** Rose Troup Buchanan

**Body**

Bad luck if you were born on 16th December: research has found it is the worst birthday of the year.

The cold - and if you live in Britain, wet - weather, combined with the excitement leading up to Christmas means most people think 16th December is an awful time to celebrate.

As if that was not bad enough, studies also found 27 per cent of people receive their birthday presents wrapped in Christmas paper.

There's a good chance well-meaning relatives and friends will give you one present instead of a separate gift for each event. And, as you get older, you realise organising a birthday party is near impossible as everyone flits to too many Christmas parties for their livers to realistically handle.

Almost a third of December babies claim their birthday gets overlooked, with January and November children also miserable about their birthday date.

Read more

Canadian girl raises $1,800 for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

16 things we learnt from Emma Freud live-tweeting Love Actually

In contrast the best birthday date is thought to be 28th July, as the height of summer and reliability of good weather all contributes to a feel-good experience.

**Load-Date:** December 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee child prostrates herself at Pope Francis' feet during emotional tour of Greek island of Lesbos; A group of Syrian and Iraqi asylum seekers were detained trying to reach the island on a boat hours before his arrival*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJC-2171-JCJY-G477-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 16, 2016 Saturday 2:56 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 964 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

A refugee child prostrated herself at the Pope's feet on Saturday, begging him to help her family leave a detention centre on the Greek island of Lesbos.

She is among thousands of asylum seekers being held in Moria waiting for authorities to decide whether they will be granted the right to stay or be deported back to Turkey.

Her family were not among the 12 Syrians, including six children, taken back to Italy on Pope Francis' plane as a "gesture of welcome".

The pontiff was making his way through the detention centre, greeting migrants as he passed, when he was stopped by a small child kneeling at his feet.

Read more

Pope Francis takes three families of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** on plane to Italy

Refugee detention centre prepares for Pope's visit

EU continues to deport refugees from Lesbos to Turkey

Her mother and sister broke down in tears as she pleaded for help, before the pontiff gently raised her to her feet and patted her on the head.

It was one of many emotional scenes during his five-hour tour of Lesbos, which has seen the highest number of refugees arriving out of any island in Europe.

One man wept uncontrollably as he knelt down before Pope Francis on Saturday, saying: "Thank you, God. Thank you! Please Father, bless me!"

Pope Francis blesses a man kneeling in front of him as he meets migrants and refugees at the Moria detention centre (AFP/Getty Images)

Several children offered him their drawings, with him praising them and handing them to his staff to be taken back to the Vatican.

Passing over a little girl's picture, he said: "Don't fold it. I want it on my desk."

As he walked past lines of refugees, shaking hands with the men and bowing to the women, the refugees shouted out their homelands of Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and other nations as protesters chanted for "freedom" outside.

Some asylum banners. "We are tired of fake promises," said one, while another asked: "What is my crime? I escaped from Isis."

Pope Francis greets migrants and refugees at the Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, April 16, 2016. (Reuters)

Pope Francis met asylum seekers and local people alongside Catholic and Orthodox leaders, who joined him in a memorial service for the hundreds of migrants who have drowned attempting to teach Europe.

"I want to tell you that you are not alone," he told hundreds of gathered asylum seekers and volunteers in Moria.

"You have endured much suffering in your search for a better life...I have come here with my brothers, Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Ieronymos, simply to be with you and to hear your stories.

"We have come to call the attention of the world to this grave humanitarian crisis and to plead for its resolution. We hope that the world will heed these scenes of tragic and indeed desperate need, and respond in a way worthy of our common humanity."

The Ecumenical Patriarch and the archbishop of Athens signed a joint declaration calling on the international community to make the protection of human lives a priority and to extend temporary asylum to those in need.

Pope Francis greets migrants and refugees at Moria detention centre on the Greek island of Lesbos, 16 April 2016 (Reuters)

The declaration also called on political leaders to use all means to ensure that everyone, particularly Christians, can remain in their homelands and enjoy the "fundamental right to live in peace and security."

"The world will be judged by the way it has treated you," Bartholomew told the refugees. "And we will all be accountable for the way we respond to the crisis and conflict in the regions that you come from."

Earlier on Saturday, the Pope had met Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and thanked him for the "generosity" shown by the Greek people in welcoming foreigners despite their own economic troubles, the Vatican said.

The visit comes as thousands of asylum seekers continue to be detained in walled camps, which were urgently spruced up ahead of his arrival.

Council workers were also seen scrubbing graffiti reading "Papa don't preach" that had been sprayed on walls and buildings in Mytilene, the capital, overnight.

The Vatican said the five-hour visit to Lesbos was purely humanitarian and religious in nature, not political, but the Pope's message to Europe was clear.

Appearing to refer to border closures and fences erected across the continent during the refugee crisis, he said the world needs bridges, not walls "to make us feel safer".

"Barriers create divisions instead of promoting the true progress of peoples, and divisions sooner or later lead to confrontations," he added.

Controversy continues over the situation in Lesbos, which is now subject to the 18 March EU-Turkey deal.

A group of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** arrive to board a plane with Pope Francis on April 16, 2016 in Lesbos (AFP/Getty Images)

It stipulates that anyone arriving clandestinely on Greek islands will be returned to Turkey unless they successfully apply for asylum in the country.

For every Syrian sent back, the EU will take another Syrian directly from Turkey for resettlement in Europe but other nationalities make up more than half of those arriving.

In return, Turkey was granted concessions including billions of euros to deal with the more than 2.7 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living there, and a speeding up of its stalled accession talks with the EU.

Despite the measures, condemned by human rights groups as "shameful" and "inhumane", desperate asylum seekers fleeing war and persecution in the Middle East and Africa continue to arrive.

Frontex, the European border agency, intercepted a dinghy carrying 41 Syrians and Iraqis off the coast of Lesbos, three hours before the Pope's arrival.

Additional reporting by agencies

**Load-Date:** April 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Jo Cox dead: Labour MP fatally shot and stabbed outside constituency surgery in Birstall, West Yorkshire; Husband leads tributes to rising star of Westminster and urges people to 'fight against the hate that killedher'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K1H-D991-F021-61C8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 17, 2016 Friday 1:00 AM GMT

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**Section:** CRIME

**Length:** 899 words

**Byline:** Oliver Wright

**Body**

MPs from across the political spectrum have set aside their differences to pay tribute to one Parliament's most promising young MPs who was killed in the street in her constituency. Her suspected killer is a man police are investigating for possible far-right links.

Jo Cox, who helped spearhead the campaign to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, was shot three times outside her constituency advice surgery in Birstall, West Yorkshire.

Read more

The Labour MP who campaigned tirelessly for refugee children

The suspect, who was arrested at the scene, was named locally as Thomas Mair, aged 52. He was reported to have shouted "Britain First" during an attack in which he fired three shots from close range while at the same time stabbing the MP with a knife.

Security sources told

The Independent

that police were investigating Mair's possible interest in far-right politics and pro-apartheid South Africa.

Tommy Mair, 52, was detained by police near his home in Birstall, West Yorkshire (SWNS)

David Cameron and Jeremy Corbyn led the tributes to Ms Cox, a mother of two young children, who had only been elected as an MP in 2015.

Ms Cox is the first MP to have been fatally attacked while in office in more than quarter of a century.

Both sides in the European Referendum campaign cancelled events due to be held on Fridayas a mark of respect. Flags across Whitehall were lowered to half mast.

Her husband Brendan said the family was going to work "every moment of our lives" to "fight against the hate that killed Jo".

"Jo believed in a better world and she fought for it everyday of her life with an energy, and a zest for life that would exhaust most people," he said.

"She would have wanted two things above all else to happen now, one that our precious children are bathed in love and two, that we all unite to fight against the hatred that killed her.

"Hate doesn't have a creed, race or religion, it is poisonous."

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was among colleagues from all parties at a vigil for Jo Cox in Parliament Square (AFP)

Mr Corbyn said Ms Cox died "doing her public duty at the heart of our democracy".

Read more

Jo Cox: Sadiq Khan remembers Labour MP who was 'the best of politics'

Jo Cox death: Detained man described by neighbours as a 'loner'

Jo Cox dead: Read the Labour MPs maiden speech to the Commons in full

"In the coming days, there will be questions to answer about how and why she died. But for now all our thoughts are with Jo's husband Brendan and their two young children. They will grow up without their mum, but can be immensely proud of what she did, what she achieved and what she stood for."

Mr Cameron added: "She had a great track record of caring about refugees and had taken a big interest in how we can look after ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and do the right thing in our world. She was a star for her constituents, a star in Parliament and a star right across the House."

Police refused to speculate on what motivation lay behind the attack, but witnesses reported hearing her attacker shouting "Britain First", which may be a reference to the far right BNP splinter group.

Ms Cox had been a high profile campaigner for the rights of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and was fighting to force the Government to take in more asylum seekers.

Jo Cox MP Maiden Speech

"He was shouting Britain First when he was doing it," said 38-year-oldGraeme Howard.

"He was pinned down by two police officers and she was taken away in an ambulance."

(PA)

Clarke Rothwell, who runs a cafe near the murder scene, added: "He was shouting 'put Britain first'. He shouted it about two or three times."

Britain First is the name of a far-right BNP splinter group. It issued a statement saying it was "not involved and would never encourage behaviour of this sort".

Mair's house was sealed off by police who were guarding the property as forensic officers worked in the garden.

Neighbours said he had lived there for more than 30 years - on his own for the last two decades since the deaths of his mother and grandmother. "He's lived there longer than me and I've lived here since 1975," said one.

"I still can't believe it. He's the last guy I would have thought of. He likes gardening.

"He did a lot of people's gardens round here."

Politicians from across all major parties expressed their shock at Ms Cox's untimely death.

Theresa May said Ms Cox was one of the "brightest and most popular" MPs and the pain her family and friends are suffering is "unimaginable".

"It is entirely appropriate that all campaigning for the referendum has been suspended,"

"All of us are united in our deep sadness at the loss of one of our brightest and most popular Westminster colleagues."

Read more

Remembering the 'bright star' of Westminster Jo Cox

The former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who knows Ms Cox well from when she worked with his wife Sarah, said: "Jo Cox was the most vivacious, personable, dynamic and committed friend you could ever have. Whenever you talked to her, the compassion in her eyes and the commitment in her soul shone through.

"Sarah and I were privileged to work with Jo and her husband Brendan over many years and in her tireless efforts on behalf of poor and desolate children and mothers. She she went to some of the most dangerous places in the world. The last place she should have been in danger was in her home town."

Ukip leader Nigel Farage said: "Deeply saddened to hear that Jo Cox has died. Sincerest condolences to her family."

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Homegrown terrorists are still the biggest threat to Americans*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHC-WM41-F021-6548-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 2, 2015 Wednesday 6:51 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 245 words

**Byline:** Justin Carissimo

**Body**

Throughout all the rhetoric and fear-mongering about accepting refugees into the United States, Thanksgiving weekend featured another mass shooting with a familiar face - a white man.

Robert L Dear opened fire inside a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs last week killing three people and injuring nine others. His past allegedviolence against his former wife and former plots to attack the women's rights clinic have surfaced in the days following the attack, the

New York Times

reports.

Still, media and politicians were hestitant to call his planned attack on Planned Parenthood an act of terrorism.

Despite mainstream media coverage and Republican party talking points, homegrown extremists have killed more Americans than jihadists since the September 11 attacks.

Read more

White people are the biggest terror threat in US, report finds

US governors possess no legal authority to refuse ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Fox News claimed the attack in Colorado was a bank robbery

Forty-eight people have been killed by non-Muslim right-wing terroristswhile 28 people have been killed at the hands of self-proclaimed jihadists, according to a recent report by New America, a Washington research firm.

Since 2001, 10 refugees have been arrested on terrorism charges in Americawhile 320 citizens were arrested on the same charges, the study shows.

**Load-Date:** December 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*16 December is the worst date for a birthday, research finds; Almost a third of December babies claim their birthday gets overlooked*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HM4-4GH1-F021-616N-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 15, 2015 Tuesday 9:11 AM GMT

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**Section:** LIFESTYLE

**Length:** 204 words

**Byline:** Rose Troup Buchanan

**Body**

Bad luck if you were born on 16th December: research has found it is the worst birthday of the year.

The cold - and if you live in Britain, wet - weather, combined with the excitement leading up to Christmas means most people think 16th December is an awful time to celebrate.

As if that was not bad enough, studies by Interflora also found 27 per cent of people receive their birthday presents wrapped in Christmas paper.

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Read more

Canadian girl raises $1,800 for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

16 things we learnt from Emma Freud live-tweeting Love Actually

In contrast the best birthday date is thought to be 28th July, as the height of summer and reliability of good weather all contributes to a feel-good experience.

**Load-Date:** December 15, 2015

**End of Document**



[*White terrorists are still the biggest threat to Americans*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHC-H111-F021-63VG-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 2, 2015 Wednesday 5:21 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 245 words

**Byline:** Justin Carissimo

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** December 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The refusal to call Isis's killings genocide is an affront to British history*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JKS-VTB1-F072-40MP-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

April 23, 2016 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 34

**Length:** 600 words

**Byline:** KIM SENGUPTA

**Body**

George Osborne announced at a parliamentary reception this week that the Government will increase its support for the Holocaust Educational Trust by £500,000. There will also be funding, he added, for a statue of Frank Foley, a British intelligence officer who helped thousands of Jews to escape from Nazi Germany.

The Chancellor spoke of the horrors of genocide, of taking his family to see the concentration camp at Dachau last month, and praised the courage of those who had helped the refugees at a time of peril. He raised a few smiles saying that some of the money pledged "would come from fines paid by those who fixed the Libor rates - people who showed the worst of values to those who have the best of British values".

At the time Mr Osborne was speaking at event on Wednesday afternoon to commemorate the life of Major Foley, who has been described as the 'British Schindler', there was a Commons debate taking place on the motion that the mass murders of Yazidis, Christians and other minorities by Isis amounted to genocide. The Obama administration, the US Congress, the European parliament and the Council of Europe have all declared that the killing by Isis was genocide. The British government, however, was against MPs voting for the motion.

Foreign Office minister Tobias Ellwood presented - to jeers from all sides of the House - a convoluted argument. He said that he personally accepted that genocide had taken place, but that the matter should be left to the courts to decide The government trotted out a line about how it has been long-standing practice not to give legal definitions to war crimes. But, in reality, there is wariness about the sensibilities of the Turks who do not want the term genocide introduced too much into international politics because it may be used for the Armenian massacres. Ankara has campaigned long and hard to prevent this from happening and there is a feeling that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan must not be offended while he is being persuaded to stop ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** coming into Europe from Turkey.

It was left to Frank Foley's nephew, speaking after Mr Osborne at the Attlee Suite in Portcullis House, to point out to the parliamentary TV monitor covering the debate that an on-going genocide taking place in 2016 Mr Ellwood failed to persuade the MPs. The Commons voted unanimously to recognise that genocide had taken place, but the Government, with its stance, can disassociate itself from the decision.

Major Foley of MI6 carried out his mission to save lives in secret without telling his superiors. From what we know, it is unlikely that he would have received the backing of the Establishment. The journalist and author Michael Smith, who has written an excellent biography of Foley, pointed out that at the time the then head of MI6 was complaining to the Home Secretary that there were too many Jews coming into the country and warned that they were a menace to British society. The British Medical Association, meanwhile, lobbied to limit the numbers of Jewish doctors working here.

After the reception, an elderly Jewish lady described how her family had made their way to England via France. "We have family members who did not get away, some ended up in Dachau, where Mr Osborne had just been to. Yes, there was anti-Semitism and anti-Semitism has not totally gone away," she said. "I was born in this country, our family found refuge here. But that is something so many of the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are not going to get in the West it seems in the current climate; it's a great pity."

What, we wondered, would Frank Foley have made of this?

**Load-Date:** April 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Assad's forces blamed as strikes kill 10 in Damascus and jeopardise peace talks; The attack was one of the bloodiestsince the start of a partial ceasefire more than a month ago*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JF0-P9W1-F021-628Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 31, 2016 Thursday 10:28 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 613 words

**Byline:** Laura Pitel

**Body**

Air strikes damaged a school and a hospital in a suburb of Damascus yesterday, killing at least 10 peoplein one of the bloodiest attacks since the start of a partial ceasefire more than a month ago.

Opposition activists blamed the Syrian air force for the attacks in Deir al-Asafir, in the eastern Ghoutadistrict of the Syrian capital, and said itthe strikes threatened to derail fragile truce and peacenegotiations due to resume in Geneva in two weeks' time. The Syrian National Coalition, an oppositiongroup, described the attack as a "massacre".

The Syrian government says that the al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra, which along with Isis is excluded from the ceasefire agreement, operates in the districts on the eastern fringe of the city.

However, the British-based monitoring group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that the area was also home to around 2,700 families. The group put the death toll at 10, including four children and arescue worker, but said that figure was expected to rise due to the high number of severe injuries.Others said the number of dead was approaching 30.

The attack came as President Bashar al-Assad said that he would be willing to hold an early presidentialelection if it was demanded by the Syrian people.

In an interview with the Russian news agency RIA, the Syrian leader said: "If there is such a will, thisis not a problem for me."

Read more

Isis 'bans all Christians from leaving Raqqa'

Turkey 'shooting dead' ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as they flee civil war

Bashar al-Assad says he is ready to hold elections in Syria

Angela Merkel accused of taking selfie with Brussels bomber

Britain and other wealthy countries 'failing ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

Pictures show Syrian soldiers playing football in Palmyra's rubble

In the last presidential election, held in 2014 amid heavy fighting across the country, Mr Assad won 88.7per cent of the vote in a result dismissed by the opposition as a farce.

Yesterday the Kremlin was yesterday forced to deny a report in the pan-Arab newspaper al-Hayat thatMoscow and Washington had struck a deal to remove Mr Assad from power.

The story claimed that John Kerry, the US Secretary of State, had told several Arab countries that anagreement had been reached to allow Mr Assad to depart for a "third country" at an unspecified point inthe future. Dmitry Peskov, a Kremlin spokesman, said that the report "does not correspond to reality".

Drone attackIsis leader killed

An envoy to the Isis leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is believed to have been killed in a drone strike,according to the monitoring group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Abu al-Haijaa al-Tunisia was said to be travelling from Iraq to oversee the group's military operationsin rural north-east of Aleppo province when his vehicle was targeted, the British-based group said.

Read more

Bashar al-Assad says he is ready to hold elections in Syria

Yesterday also saw the Russian Defence Ministry say Russian demining experts had arrived in Syria tostart clearing mines in the ancient town of Palmyra, which was recaptured from Isis on Sunday by Syriantroops under the cover of Russian air strikes.

The Kremlin had pledged to help the Syrian government clear the archaeological site of mines. The Russianministry said in a statement that the first demining group landed early yesterday at its base in Syria.

It was not immediately clear when the Russians would get to Palmyra. The demining is expected to takeseveral months.

**Load-Date:** March 31, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Roma gypsies most negatively perceived European minority group, survey finds; YouGov poll was conducted in June of this year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HDK-PX41-JCJY-G4VB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 19, 2015 Thursday 4:26 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 209 words

**Byline:** Rose Troup Buchanan

**Body**

The Roma and Gypsy communities are regarded the most negatively by northern Europeans, a study has found.

The YouGov poll also found 40 per cent of the French had a negative impression of Muslims - the same as the UK. Only the Danes and Finish populations polled at higher levels (45 per cent).

Overall, Jewish communities were the least negatively perceived, with LGBT groups polling just above.

Overall, the Finnish and Danes were found to have the most negative impressions of minority groups, in particular the Roma or Gypsy people.

Germanswerefound to holdthe least negative views about minority groups in Europe.

However, the survey's sampled only 7,230 people in total. 1667 British adults, 1016 German adults, 1004 French adults, 1009 Danish adults, 1010 Swedish adults, 970 Finnish adults and 554 Norwegian adults responded to the study.

The survey was conducted in June prior to the Paris attacks, claimed by terror organisation Isis, which killed 129 people and injured hundreds more.

The poll's results come following another YouGov poll in November conducted for

The Times

that appeared to show British support for accepting ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** had dramatically fallen following the attacks on the French capital.

Graphic by Statista.

**Load-Date:** November 19, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Why children's authors are taking on the refugee crisis; More than a dozen new and forthcoming titles feature young Muslim refugees as protagonists, ranging from picture books to novels that delve into the darker issuesof the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P8M-MB51-F021-653D-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 15, 2017 Tuesday 9:29 AM GMT

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**Section:** FEATURES; Version:2

**Length:** 1365 words

**Byline:** Alexandra Alter

**Body**

Some of the most shocking images from the crisis in Syria have been photographs of children: the body of a drowned toddler lying on a Turkish beach, the expressionless five-year-old boy from Aleppo, shellshocked, bloodied and ash-covered, after being pulled from the rubble of a bombed building.

Now, a number of children's books authors, moved by these images and other news reports, are taking on the subject in fiction to humanise and personalise the ongoing conflict for young readers. More than a dozen new and forthcoming titles feature young Muslim refugees as protagonists, ranging from picture books aimed at readers as young as fourto a cluster of novels for teenagersthat delve into the murkier aspects of the refugee crisis. Some of the books touch on challenging issues such asthe rise of Isisand the sectarian rift between Sunnis and Shias.

Read more

The UK must do more to tackle the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean

Suzanne Del Rizzo's picture book

My Beautiful Birds

is based on an article she read about a Syrian boy living in Jordan in the Zaatari refugee camp who had tamed wild birds. In her book, she writes from the perspective of Sami, a boy who trains pigeons and must leave his birds behind when his family evacuates from their home in Syria and walks to a refugee camp in Jordan. There, Sami finds solace in caring for wild birds.

To research her young adult novel

A Land of Permanent Goodbyes

, the novelist Atia Abawi travelled to Lesbos, Greece, and spoke to Syrians in a refugee camp. Those conversations helped shape her book, which centres on a Syrian family that escapes an ISIS stronghold for Istanbul and then Greece.

Alan

Gatz

's'Refugee' is about a young boy fleeingAleppo

In Alan Gratz's novel

Refugee

, for eight to 12-year-olds, a young boy named Mahmoud Bishara flees the violence in Aleppo after his family's home is destroyed, and has to contend with smugglers and militants as his family charts a treacherous course through Turkey and across the Mediterranean to Europe. His younger brother, Waleed-based on Omran Daqneesh, the Syrian boy famously photographed after the bombing -is too traumatised to even cry.

"I wanted to make individual refugees visible and turn statistics into names and faces that kids could relate to," Gratz says.

The wave of children's books about Muslim asylum seekers is arriving amid the worst refugee crisis the world has seen since World War II, as millions of civilians -many of them children -flee the wars and insurgencies in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. The Syrian civil war alone has uprooted more than two million children, according to Unicef.

"It's really important to engage children with the world as it is, and the world right now is a very complicated place," said Zareen Jaffery, executive editor of Salaam Reads, a Muslim-themed children's imprint at Simon & Schuster.

Some of these new novels explore perilous journeys, as refugees entrust their lives to smugglers and navigate war zones controlled by rebel groups and extremists. In

Escape From Aleppo,

a novel by NHSenzai for eight to 12-year-olds, a Syrian girl named Nadia flees her country for Turkey after civil war breaks out after the failed democratic uprising.

Young adult novel 'The Land of Permanent

Goodbyes

'centres on a Syrian family that escapes an Isisstronghold for Istanbul and then Greece

Others focus on the discrimination and sense of displacement faced by Muslim asylum seekers.

The Lines We Cross

, a young adult novel by Randa Abdel-Fattah released by Scholastic in May, centres on a teenage Muslim refugee from Afghanistan who is accosted by Islamophobes and nationalists in Australia, where her family runs a restaurant. The girl, Mina, develops a crush on a boy whose parents are anti-immigration, anti-Muslim activists. "In a political environment where there's such a demonisation of refugees, I wanted readers to understand what their lives are like," says Abdel-Fattah, who lives in Sydney.

Gratz says that he expected a book like

Refugee

, an unflinching and sympathetic look at people whose lives are upended by war and oppression, might repel some readers. "There certainly will be people who will assume that I wrote it to push an agenda," he said.

Refugee

, which Scholastic released in late July with a first printing of more than 200,000 copies, originally began as a novel about the StLouis, a German ocean liner carrying nearly 1,000 Jews fleeing Hitler during World War II. The ship was turned away from Cuba and the United States and returned to Europe, where many of the passengers died in the war. Gratz saw disturbing parallels between the historical episode he was researching and the current plight of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and decided to weave together the stories of three children: a Jewish boy whose family tries to escape Nazi Germany on the StLouis; a Cuban girl who leaves Havana in a raft during theisland's food shortages in 1994, and Mahmoud, the Syrian boy whose family escapes to Europe.

When he finished the novel this year, Gratz added an author's note that addresses President Trump's travel ban, and says that the United States has accepted less than one percent of the roughly five million refugees who have fled Syria.

Canadian children's author

Margriet

Ruurs

follows a family fleeing war in an unnamed country and features images by Syrian artist

Nizar

Ali

Badr

"When I began writing this book as a response to the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***, I had no idea how timely it would be when it finally came out," he says.

Teachers and librarians have embraced these titles as a way to explain the refugee crisis to children, and Gratz has been invited to speak at more than 40 schools around America.

Mollee Holloman, an elementary school librarian in Manteo, North Carolina, who helped organise a recent book signing for Gratz that drew around 80 children, said she hoped

Refugee

would give children more empathy for those displaced by war. "He's giving us the perspective of a child, and that helps these students see outside the world they're living in," Holloman says.

In Canada, where more than 33,000 Syrians resettled in 2016, picture books featuring Syrian refugee characters are being used in some public schools to explain the crisis and give students perspective on what some arriving Syrian students might have been through.

The Canadian children's book author Margriet Ruurs has spoken to thousands of students at schools around the world about her book

Stepping Stones

, which follows a family fleeing a war in an unnamed country and features images by the Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr, who uses small stones to create human figures.

'The Lines We Cross', a young adult novel by

Randa

Abdel-Fattah

, centres on a teenage Muslim refugee from Afghanistan who is accosted by

Islamophobes

and nationalists in Australia

During a reading last autumnat a British Columbia library, Ruurs was joined by Serina Khaldi, a nine-year-old girl from Aleppo whose family recently settled in Salt Spring Island, where Ruurs lives.

Stepping Stones

has text in both English and Arabic, and Serina read the story in Arabic. "My daughter is very shy, but she was excited," says Samer Khaldi, Serina's father.

Read more

Obama warns climate change could create 'unprecedented' refugee crisis

Carrie Gelson, an elementary school teacher in Vancouver, has used

Stepping Stones

and other picture books about Muslim refugees in social studies. She told the class, "You meet these students in your class and it's important that you know their stories." One of the picture books she read aloud was

My Beautiful Birds

, Del Rizzo's story about a Syrian boy living in a refugee camp in Jordan.

Gelson was eager to share

My Beautiful Birds

with one student in particular: Nour Alahmad Almahmoud, a 12-year-old Syrian girl whose family came to Canada from a refugee camp in Jordan in late 2015. When Nour first read the book this spring, she was overwhelmed and ran outside in tears.

"I cried because it's like this book makes me remember everything," Nour says. "I felt like this family in the book is my family."

She asked to take the copy home for the weekend to show her parents and siblings. Gelson told her the book was hers to keep.

© The New York Times

**Load-Date:** August 18, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Cologne sexual assaults: Leaked police report reveals 'chaos beyond description' as women attacked; 'I'm Syrian, you have to treat me nicely! Angela Merkel invited me,' one man reportedly told officers*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HT7-DRF1-F021-6488-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 8, 2016 Friday 10:22 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 660 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

A leaked police report has revealed chaos "beyond description" in Cologne on New Year's Eve, as seen through the eyes of the outnumbered officers trying to contain the disorder.

An account seen by

Der Spiegel

magazine and

Bild

newspaper was written by a senior officer in the German Federal Police.

He described terrified women being forced to "literally run through a gauntlet of extremely intoxicated men" outside the city's main railway station as "fights, thefts, sex, assaults on women" continued all around.

NYE celebrations in Cologne

Police have come under heavy criticism for their response on the night, which is now the subject of more than 120 separate criminal complaints - mostly of sexual assault and robbery.

"In the course of the operation numerous crying and shocked women and girls approached officers to reportsexual assaults by male migrants or groups," the report said.

Read more

Anti-Muslim group Pegida to stage rally in Cologne after sex attacks

'Some of the Cologne sex attackers claimed to be ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

British girl describes horror witnessing Cologne sexual attacks

Cologne 'mass sex assault' claims rise

"Unfortunately it wasn't possible to identify them all."

The unidentified officer wrote that police could not prevent or even record all the crimes and attacks because there were "just too many at the same time".

He said the police presence did not seem to deter the men committing offences, including some who even mocked police as they struggled to reach victims through the crowds.

Vans arriving as back-up were also allegedly targeted by fireworks and officers pelted with glass bottles by huge crowds between Cologne's iconic cathedral and railway station.

Police sent 143 local officers and 70 federal officers into the area in a large-scale operation to clear the area.

The report described "several thousand people, mostly male, of a migrant background who were firing all kinds of fireworks and throwing bottles into the crowd at random".

A 17-year-old British girl previously told how she escaped serious injury when a rocket exploded behind her as she celebrated New Year's Eve with her boyfriend.

Read more

'Arab gang' attacks spark fresh debate about immigration in Germany

"We heard a woman screaming and crying somewhere in the midst of this crowd, appearing to be escaping from a foreign man, who was shouting back and pointing his finger at her and chasing her with his accomplices," she wrote.

"Later on, we saw two men corner women at the cathedral and touch them while they were screaming for help and trying to fight back."

The square was cleared shortly after midnight, police said, although some of the suspects complained of their treatment.

A man claiming to be an asylum seeker is quoted in the report as saying: "I'm Syrian, you have to treat me nicely! Angela Merkel invited me."

Women march through Cologne holding placards reading 'Against Sexism, Against Racism'

A spokesperson for the German Federal Police, Jens Floeren, confirmed the authenticity of the report to

The Local

but said it was one offer's "subjective assessment" of the incident three days afterwards.

Angela Merkel said Germany "will not accept" the assaults and said changes could be made to policing, while asylum seekers and Muslims across the country have voiced outrage.

Among members of a Facebook group for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Germany, some called for the perpetrators to be strongly punished and deported immediately, blaming them for stoking anti-migrant prejudice and increasing the risk of attacks.

Police said investigators working with video footage have identified 16 young men -mostly of North African origin -who may be suspects.

Additional reporting by AP

**Load-Date:** January 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Home Office accused of abandoning vulnerable refugees of Syrian war*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P6F-3MN1-F072-4003-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

August 8, 2017 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 1554 words

**Byline:** HARRIET AGERHOLM AND DANIEL KRAEMER

**Body**

The Government's flagship refugee programme is under fire for failing to accommodate the most vulnerable people fleeing the Syrian war. Exclusive figures obtained by The Independent show that just 5 per cent of refugees resettled under the scheme have disabilities, such as mobility issues or special educational needs, despite estimates that more than one in five people escaping from the war are disabled.

Labour said the findings marked an "all new low" for the Government, claiming that the Home Office's treatment of refugees contradicted British values. Local council workers complained that central government was taking a "one size fits all" approach to refugee placement, with little consideration of how to accommodate complex needs. Meanwhile, councils were accused of providing "shopping lists" of the kinds of families they wanted that excluded the most at-risk groups.

Figures released by 251 councils under freedom of information laws show that 5,529 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** were resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Programme (VPRP) between January 2014 and April this year. Of those 288, or 5.2 per cent, were registered as disabled. Yet the World Health Organisation calculates that 15 per cent of people worldwide have a disability - and the proportion is higher among those fleeing conflict.

Handicap International estimates around 22 per cent of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Lebanon and Jordan have serious impairments. The organisation found that 80 per cent of significant injuries were a result of the Syrian war. Those not resettled in Britain and other European countries remain in camps and makeshift shelters in Syria's neighbour states, including Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Turkey, where UN human rights experts warn disabled refugees face inadequate access to essential services and medical care.

The VPRP - which commits the Government to taking in 20,000 refugees by 2020 - was set up in 2014 primarily to accommodate the most at-risk groups, including the elderly, the disabled and victims of sexual violence and torture.

Revelations about how many disabled refugees the UK accepted came after The Independent in February reported that the Government had temporarily barred disabled child refugees from a different scheme because it could not cope with their needs. Labour-led councils in the UK took 69 per cent more disabled refugees per capita than Conservative ones, analysis revealed. The gap widened to 82 per cent when it came to the overall number of Syrians.

Meanwhile, SNP-led councils took almost five times as many refugees with disabilities per capita as Conservative ones, housing 19 for every million people, compared to the Tories' four, analysis showed. The Independent has based its calculations only on upper tier authorities that provided full figures. Around half (48 per cent) of the 288 disabled refugees the UK resettled were accepted by just 10 councils. Coventry took 23 people with mobility issues or special education needs - the most of any local authority - closely followed by Glasgow and Nottingham, which took 20 each.

Louise Calvey, head of resettlement at Refugee Action, said an area's politics was "a seismic factor" in determining whether a council would participate in the refugee scheme. She added that some councils were daunted by the prospect of accepting responsibility for people with disabilities. "When you [resettle] someone with a high level of additional needs it can be frightening. I think a lot of people are quite nervous about committing to that."

In some areas, Ms Calvey said, a severely limited amount of accessible housing meant even councils that were willing to re-home disabled refugees could not. "They can't magic houses up, they can't suddenly develop a whole list of bungalows that wheelchair users can access easily," she said.

The difficulties finding housing for disabled refugees were "no different from the barriers those born in the UK who have physical disabilities face," she added. Recent welfare reforms, including the benefits cap, have made it even harder to accommodate people with complex needs, she claimed. "You've already got people being resettled into poverty, which makes me shudder," she said.

Jazz Shaban, co-chair of Bicester Refugee Support in Oxfordshire, said local authorities were allowed to choose the kind of family they resettled, meaning some councils avoided helping those with the highest level of need. "Local authorities have a shopping list of the sort of family they want," she said. "Generally they're not asking for people with complex needs. The words I've heard used are a 'steady family'."

Not only was there variation between councils, but there were large differences in regional responses to refugees with disabilities. Scotland resettled almost four times the number of disabled refugees per capita than England. The north-east of England took more than eight times the number of disabled refugees per head than London. Parts of the country that voted for Brexit were less likely to take disabled refugees than those who opted to remain in the EU. Pro-remain areas accepted 44 per cent more disabled ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** per capita than Eurosceptic ones. For total ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** the difference was 43 per cent.

Peter Barnett, from Coventry Council, criticised the Government for not doing enough to support disabled refugees. "We are not helped by the one-size fits all nature of the Home Office programmes, which do not really address the additional support required by people living with disabilities," he said.

Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott pointed to cases where central government failed to take up offers from local councils to house refugees. Responding to the figures, she said: "This is truly appalling and an all new low in this Government's treatment of refugees, discriminating against the disabled. Just over a year ago when Theresa May made her first speech as Prime Minister she said 'a disability or a health condition should never dictate the path a person is able to take'. But this has clearly been a factor blocking the legitimate right of vulnerable refugees to seek asylum in this country. This Government's treatment of refugees is simply not in line with British values."

Melanie Ward, Associate Director of Policy and Advocacy at the International Rescue Committee said the UK's pledge to resettle refugees made specific reference to supporting disabled Syrians. She said it was "disappointing" that the UK had not fulfilled its goal of catering for the most vulnerable refugees. "At a time where we are pushing European countries to expand their resettlement programmes, particular attention should be paid to ensuring the needs of disabled refugees are met," she added. "It is vital that the UK recognises that disabled refugees are often among the most vulnerable, and are exactly those which resettlement seeks to protect."

The UN's refugee agency, UNHCR, said "much more needs to be done" to cater for the most vulnerable refugees. "Reception and integration support is key to successful resettlement through ensuring that resettled refugees are properly received and have the support and services they need to integrate into their new society and live fulfilled lives," a spokesperson said.

The Home Office said the findings were "inaccurate" but was unable to provide numbers that contradicted The Independent's figures. A spokesperson added: "Almost a third of the families who have arrived include at least one person with either mobility issues, a serious medical condition, psychological problems or special educational needs. Given the hardships that they have faced, the reality is that the refugee families we resettle are all vulnerable, for a number of different reasons. How we place each family is carefully considered on a case by case basis - in collaboration with local authorities and the UNHCR - taking into account all relevant information."

Refugees with disabilities in countries surrounding Syria live in particularly poor conditions, since they struggle to access healthcare and other support, human rights organisations have reported.

One disabled Syrian man The Independent spoke to was stranded in Lebanon with little access to medical care for two years. Hussein Ejrf, who was eventually resettled in the UK in November 2015, suffered catastrophic injuries when his dairy farm was shelled by both government and opposition forces in Quneitra, south-west Syria. When the 41-year-old father of four arrived in Lebanon he could not afford the surgery or medicine he needed. Eventually, his left leg had to be amputated, a procedure he believes would not have been necessary if he had been treated properly. "It was a tragedy living in Lebanon," he said.

On when one occasion when Mr Ejrf was in intensive care, his wife Hayat searched for three days for someone with a matching blood type. When she eventually found a donor, doctors refused to administer the blood until they paid $100 (£76), Mr Ejrf said. They did not have the money, and Ms Ejrf had to beg strangers for help.

Mr Ejrf now lives in Coventry with his wife and their four children. He visits the GP every month and gets the medication he needs. When he first arrived in the UK, he wanted to get a driving licence, but now he says he is "thrilled" with his electric wheelchair.

**Load-Date:** August 7, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Alan Kurdi: Relatives of drowned Syrian toddler receive warm welcome in Canada; The three-year-old's relatives say they are determined his death not be in vain*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HPY-JS21-F021-602N-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 28, 2015 Monday 9:57 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 579 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

Four months after images of his lifeless body on a Turkish beach sparked outrage around the world, Alan Kurdi's relatives have arrived in Canada, ready to start a new life and determined the child's death not be in vain.

The three-year-old's uncle, Mohammed Kurdi, his wife, and their five children arrived at the airport in Vancouver. They landed shortly before noon where they are being greeted by his sister, Tima Kurdi, a Canadian who is sponsoring the family.

Also on hand to welcome the family were schoolchildren holding signs that read 'Welcome to Canada'.

'Tell the people of Canada thank you': Alan Kurdi's father [*https://t.co/kYVUk49Tb7*](https://t.co/kYVUk49Tb7)

- Global BC (@GlobalBC) December 28, 2015

Tima Kurdi told CTV news channel that while the tragedy involving her nephew has been painful for the entire family, she hoped it served as a reminder to the world of the plight of refugees fleeing violence.

"Even though the tragedy was very painful for us, it's opened the doors for others - that's what counts," she said. "I hope his death won't be in vain."

The three-year-old boy drowned in September along with his older brother and their mother while attempting to cross the waters between Turkey and Greece.

Images of his lifeless body, face-down in the sand, sparked outcry and led millions around the world to demand countries provide

Tima Kurdi, a Canadian who is sponsoring the family, released balloons in memory of those who died

Alan Kurdi's father, Abdullah Kurdi, said he had attempted the dangerous water crossing after the Canadian government rejected his brother Mohammed's original refugee application. Canadian officials said the application did not have the required documentation.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada later asked Tima Kurdi to re-apply for her brother and his family in mid-October.

Ms Kurdi told the BBC she was unable to look at the photograph of the child that generated such outcry. She said, however, that she understood the power of the image and its impact on pressuring politicians to act.

Hundreds of asylum seekers have died this year trying to reach Europe by sea. Greece and Turkey have become a major transit points.

The admittance of refugees from war-torn nations including Syria has become highly contentious in governments around the world, with leaders attempting to balance security and humanitarian concerns.

The relatives of the toddler received a war welcome at Vancouver Airport

In Canada, the newly-elected Liberal government led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau campaigned on the promise to resettle 25,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** by the end of February.

The government, which came to power in early November, said that 10,000 of the refugees would arrive by the end of the year.

Last week, the government said the country's resettlement programme would be expanded in 2016 to take 50,000.

Read more

Syria's war is complicated - but the refugee crisis is not

Humans of New York raises $700,000 for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in three days

Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher 'donate £670,000 to Syrian children'

We have enough room, and I did my best, me and my husband and my son. We made it nice and comfy," she said.

Her other brother and Alan Kurdi's father, Abdullah Kurdi, declined to come to Canada and now lives in Kurdistan.

Ms Kurdi said that after losing his wife and children, Alan's father had devoted his life to helping other refugees.

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syrian refugee girl's message to world leaders: 'Give us the power to make our hopes and dreams come true'; Muzoon Almellehan is friends withMalala Yousafzai, the Pakistani education campaigner who was shot by the Taliban*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J11-G2P1-F021-64J8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 4, 2016 Thursday 4:45 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 952 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

A teenage girl who was among the first ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** brought to the UK has launched an impassioned plea for world leaders to ensure children's futures are not ruined by the country's civil war.

Muzoon Almellehan has been dubbed the "Malala of Syria" for her campaign to keep girls in school and was introduced by her friend at the Supporting Syria conference.

The 17-year-old began by thanking the UK for welcoming her family and allowing them to "have a normal life again" where they have been resettled in Newcastle.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai (left) and 17-year-old Syrian refugee Muzoon Almellehan at the 'Supporting Syria and the Region' conference in London on 4 FEbruary

She is attending a local school and hopes to study to be a journalist in the future, but fears for hundreds of thousands of other Syrian children with no access to education.

This was Muzoon's message to the world:

"Girls must get education. Their parents thought they were protecting their daughters but education is the best protection for girls.If a mother is not educated, how can she help her children? If young people are not educated who will rebuild the country?

We need education because Syria needs us. Syria needs engineers and teachers and doctors and journalists. Without us who will bring peace?I share the same message as my friend Malala: Education is power. Education is the future. Education makes us who we want to be."

The teenager said that although she and her peers have been dubbed a "lost generation", they have not lost their love of learning, their dreams for the future or, most importantly, hope.

"Syria will never be the same as before the war - I hope it can be better," Muzoon said.

"Will you help us? Will you fund the education we need to make our hopes and dreams come true?"

Abdallah, 12, and Dania, 10, whose school was bombed in Aleppo, sit in a mock up of a destroyed classroom, outside the Houses of Parliament in London

Her speech in London was watched by dignitaries from around the world, including British MPs, United Nations officials and members of royalty from several Arab states.

Read more

Increase aid to Syria to stem flow of refugees, says David Cameron

3 charts that show whatever is pledged in London won't be enough

Cameron pledges extra £1.2bn as world leaders meet for Syria talks

Syrian peace talks halted as Assad forces advance on Aleppo

Opening the conference, David Cameron called on his fellow world leaders to increase aid for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** amid fears that a fresh onslaught by President Bashar Assad's forces will drive a fresh exodus from the country.

Pledging an additional £1.2 billion of UK aid over the next four years, the Prime Minister said there was a "critical shortfall in life-saving aid that is fatally holding back our humanitarian efforts".

"After years of conflict we are witnessing a desperate movement of humanity as hundreds of thousands of Syrians fear they have no alternative than to put their lives in the hands of evil people-smugglers in search of a future," he added.

Mr Cameron's speech was followed by national pledges amounting to billions of pounds, but he was harshly criticised on Twitter for calling on a "new approach" to the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speaks as Prime Minister David Cameron (left) looks on during the 'Supporting Syria and the Region' conference in London.

"Will we be accepting more refugees? Or stop selling arms to Saudi?" one person asked, while others accused the Prime Minister of "hypocrisy" as the RAF continues air strikes in Syria.

Muzoon, whose family was resettled from a Jordanian refugee camp as part of Britain's scheme to take 20,000 refugees over five years, said young Syrians were needed to rebuild their country.

"One day, when I am a journalist, there is a story I want to write," she said.

"I want to write the story of how all the Syrian children came home to lift up their country. I hope that story starts today ."

She grew up in Daraa, a city outside of Damascus that was besieged by Syrian government forces after pro-democracy protests in the Arab Spring, before being overrun by rebels and Islamists in February 2014.

Her parents took her, her two brothers and sister to Jordan when fighting intensified and they lived in camps there for three years.

Muzoon became known for her campaigning at the Za'atari camp, where she went door to door attempting to convince parents to keep their daughters in refugee schools on the site, instead of marrying htem off.

"Life was not easy but I was lucky because I was in camps where there were schools, because I had parents that believe in education, especially for their daughters - not every girl has parents like that," she said, describing seeing classmates as young as 14 drop out to be married.

Malala asked to meet Muzoon during her visit to the camp in 2014, striking up a friendship that continued when she invited her to attend the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in December of that year as a special guest.

After keeping in touch via Skype and email, they met again in Jordan in July last year, before being reunited when Muzoon arrived in the UK in December.

As the Geneva peace talks between warring factions in Syria stutter, Thursday's conference focused on education and opportunity for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in reflection of the growing recognition that the fallout from the war will be very long-term.

Syria's almost five-year-old conflict has killed an estimated 250,000 people and stoked the spread of Islamist militancy across the Middle East and North Africa.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Paris attacks: The integration of immigrants through education is paramount; Last week'soutrages in Paris must not change Britain's plans to offer succour to people in need*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HD9-4R71-F021-62NH-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 17, 2015 Tuesday 11:25 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 578 words

**Byline:** Editorial

**Body**

Thearrival in Glasgow of a flight carrying ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** marks the beginning of the UK's commitment to resettle vulnerable families and individuals fleeing civil war. It is an important milestone and we must hope the Government meets its target of welcoming a thousand refugees before Christmas. Last week's outrages in Paris must not change Britain's plans to offer succour to people in need.

Those who are given the opportunity to start a new life in this country will undergo hefty security screening. That should reassure locals made anxious by the "Trojan horse" theory - as yet unproved - that one of Friday's killers came into Europe posing as a refugee. We should have nothing to fear from people who have been driven here by terror and will arrive full of hope. We should offer them support, not suspicion.

Read more

The first ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have just arrived in Glasgow

A welcoming attitude will be vital if the 20,000 refugees due in Britain by 2020 are to play a full part in this nation's civic life. Integration is at the heart of combating the drift towards radicalism which can lead some immigrants to turn their back on the West. Already it is clear that it was young French men who were at the forefront of the attacks in Paris last Friday: youths radicalised by alienation from the state in which they were born or grew up. We saw the same in this country with the London bombings a decade ago.

Since then, assimilation of immigrant communities has become a priority in Britain - and that is why minister after minister has focused on the importance of language skills, of education and of community engagement. The rhetoric doesn't always match up to reality - cuts to English language courses have been particularly galling. Nonetheless, there is at least a recognition of the importance of integration - for first-generation immigrants and beyond.

A new study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) indicates that the UK has been relatively successful in fostering a sense of belonging, especially among young people. Among first-generation immigrant students in this country, more than 84 per cent reported feeling "like they belong" at school. This seems indicative of a wider sense of Britishness among immigrant communities. Indeed, a 2012 report to the Government's Migration Advisory Committee found that recent and established immigrants were for the most part as likely as white Britons to report a feeling of belonging to Britain.

The contrast with France is striking. The OECD study found only 43 per cent of students who were first-generation immigrants felt they belonged at school, and among the second generation that proportion fell to 39.5 per cent.

In these dark days following Friday's attack it is hard to start examining how such brutal atrocities could take place at the hands of French citizens. There can surely be no simple answer. Yet for those with knowledge of the banlieues, the OECD's data will add fuel to the notion that communities in some French cities are horribly fractured, tempting hopeless men to a life of religious extremism.

Efforts here to encourage integration might offer lessons to the French government in the years ahead. But it is vital, too, that political leaders in the UK remain committed to policies that promote cohesion. This week we may all be French, but next week we will all be British again. It is vital that everyone living in this country feels like they belong.

**Load-Date:** November 17, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Why children's authors take on the refugee crisis; More than a dozen new and forthcoming titles feature young Muslim refugees as protagonists, ranging from picture books to novels that delve into the darker issuesof the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P80-6V51-F021-6274-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 15, 2017 Tuesday 9:29 AM GMT

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**Section:** FEATURES; Version:1

**Length:** 1373 words

**Byline:** Alexandra Alter

**Body**

Some of the most shocking images from the crisis in Syria have been photographs of children: the body of a drowned toddler lying on a Turkish beach, the expressionless 5-year-old boy from Aleppo, shellshocked, bloodied and ash-covered, after being pulled from the rubble of a bombed building.

Now, a number of children's books authors, moved by these images and other news reports, are taking on the subject in fiction to humanise and personalise the ongoing conflict for young readers. More than a dozen new and forthcoming titles feature young Muslim refugees as protagonists, ranging from picture books aimed at readers as young as 4 to a cluster of novels for middle and high school students that delve into the murkier aspects of the refugee crisis. Some of the books touch on challenging issues like the rise of the Islamic State and the sectarian rift between Sunnis and Shias.

Suzanne Del Rizzo's picture book

My Beautiful Birds

is based on an article she read about a Syrian boy living in Jordan in the Zaatari refugee camp who had tamed wild birds. In her book, she writes from the perspective of Sami, a boy who trains pigeons and must leave his birds behind when his family evacuates from their home in Syria and walks to a refugee camp in Jordan. There, Sami finds solace in caring for wild birds.

To research her young adult novel

A Land of Permanent Goodbyes

, the novelist Atia Abawi travelled to Lesbos, Greece, and spoke to Syrians in a refugee camp. Those conversations helped shape her book, which centres on a Syrian family that escapes an ISIS stronghold for Istanbul and then Greece.

In Alan

Gatz's

'Refugee' for eight to 12-year-olds, a young boy named

Mahmoud

Bishara

flees the violence in Aleppo

In Alan Gratz's novel

Refugee

, for eight to 12-year-olds, a young boy named Mahmoud Bishara flees the violence in Aleppo after his family's home is destroyed, and has to contend with smugglers and militants as his family charts a treacherous course through Turkey and across the Mediterranean to Europe. His younger brother, Waleed - based on Omran Daqneesh, the Syrian boy famously photographed after the bombing - is too traumatised to even cry.

"I wanted to make individual refugees visible and turn statistics into names and faces that kids could relate to," Gratz says.

The wave of children's books about Muslim asylum seekers is arriving amid the worst refugee crisis the world has seen since World War II, as millions of civilians - many of them children - flee the wars and insurgencies in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. The Syrian civil war alone has uprooted more than two million children, according to Unicef.

"It's really important to engage children with the world as it is, and the world right now is a very complicated place," said Zareen Jaffery, executive editor of Salaam Reads, a Muslim-themed children's imprint at Simon & Schuster.

Some of these new novels explore perilous journeys, as refugees entrust their lives to smugglers and navigate war zones controlled by rebel groups and extremists. In

Escape From Aleppo,

a novel by N. H. Senzai for eight to 12-year-olds, a Syrian girl named Nadia flees her country for Turkey after civil war breaks out after the failed democratic uprising.

Atia

Abawi's

young adult novel 'The Land of Permanent

Goodbyes

' centres on a Syrian family that escapes an ISIS stronghold for Istanbul and then Greece

Others focus on the discrimination and sense of displacement faced by Muslim asylum seekers.

The Lines We Cross

, a young adult novel by Randa Abdel-Fattah released by Scholastic in May, centres on a teenage Muslim refugee from Afghanistan who is accosted by Islamophobes and nationalists in Australia, where her family runs a restaurant. The girl, Mina, develops a crush on a boy whose parents are anti-immigration, anti-Muslim activists. "In a political environment where there's such a demonisation of refugees, I wanted readers to understand what their lives are like," says Abdel-Fattah, who lives in Sydney.

Gratz says that he expected a book like

Refugee

, an unflinching and sympathetic look at people whose lives are upended by war and oppression, might repel some readers. "There certainly will be people who will assume that I wrote it to push an agenda," he said.

Refugee

, which Scholastic released in late July with a first printing of more than 200,000 copies, originally began as a novel about the St. Louis, a German ocean liner carrying nearly 1,000 Jews fleeing Hitler during World War II. The ship was turned away from Cuba and the United States and returned to Europe, where many of the passengers died in the war. Mr. Gratz saw disturbing parallels between the historical episode he was researching and the current plight of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and decided to weave together the stories of three children: a Jewish boy whose family tries to escape Nazi Germany on the St. Louis; a Cuban girl who leaves Havana in a raft during that island's food shortages in 1994, and Mahmoud, the Syrian boy whose family escapes to Europe.

When he finished the novel this year, Gratz added an author's note that addresses President Trump's travel ban, and says that the United States has accepted less than one percent of the roughly five million refugees who have fled Syria.

The Canadian children's book author Margriet Ruurs follows a family fleeing a war in an unnamed country and features images by the Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr, who uses small stones to create human figures

"When I began writing this book as a response to the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***, I had no idea how timely it would be when it finally came out," he says.

Teachers and librarians have embraced these titles as a way to explain the refugee crisis to children, and Gratz has been invited to speak at more than 40 schools around America.

Mollee Holloman, an elementary school librarian in Manteo, N.C., who helped organise a recent book signing for Gratz that drew around 80 children, said she hoped

Refugee

would give children more empathy for those displaced by war. "He's giving us the perspective of a child, and that helps these students see outside the world they're living in," Holloman says.

In Canada, where more than 33,000 Syrians resettled in 2016, picture books featuring Syrian refugee characters are being used in some public schools to explain the crisis and give students perspective on what some arriving Syrian students might have been through.

The Canadian children's book author Margriet Ruurs has spoken to thousands of students at schools around the world about her book

Stepping Stones

, which follows a family fleeing a war in an unnamed country and features images by the Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr, who uses small stones to create human figures.

'The Lines We Cross', a young adult novel by

Randa

Abdel-Fattah

, centres on a teenage Muslim refugee from Afghanistan who is accosted by

Islamophobes

and nationalists in Australia, where her family runs a restaurant

For a reading last fall at a British Columbia library, Ruurs was joined by Serina Khaldi, a nine-year-old girl from Aleppo whose family recently settled in Salt Spring Island, where Ruurs lives.

Stepping Stones

has text in both English and Arabic, and Serina read the story in Arabic. "My daughter is very shy, but she was excited," says Samer Khaldi, Serina's father.

Carrie Gelson, an elementary school teacher in Vancouver, has used

Stepping Stones

and other picture books about Muslim refugees in social studies. She told the class, "You meet these students in your class and it's important that you know their stories." One of the picture books she read aloud was

My Beautiful Birds

, Del Rizzo's story about a Syrian boy living in a refugee camp in Jordan.

Gelson was eager to share

My Beautiful Birds

with one student in particular: Nour Alahmad Almahmoud, a 12-year-old Syrian girl whose family came to Canada from a refugee camp in Jordan in late 2015. When Nour first read the book this spring, she was overwhelmed and ran outside in tears.

"I cried because it's like this book makes me remember everything," Nour says. "I felt like this family in the book is my family."

She asked to take the copy home for the weekend to show her parents and siblings. Gelson told her the book was hers to keep.

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**Load-Date:** August 15, 2017

**End of Document**



[*HSBC bans Syrian refugees; EXCLUSIVE*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5CVR-2DT1-JCS0-D1BG-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

August 8, 2014 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 46 words

**Byline:** MARIA TADEO

**Body**

HSBC has been accused of "backstabbing" some of its most vulnerable customers after it closed accounts belonging to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and students in the UK.

The lender has been blasted as discriminatory by Syrians in the UK, who accuse HSBC of "shamelessly profiling" its clients.

**Load-Date:** August 7, 2014

**End of Document**



[*US appeals court denies Donald Trump's request to reinstate travel ban*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT8-4731-F021-611V-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 5, 2017 Sunday 9:03 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 226 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

The US appeals court has denied Donald Trump's request to immediately reinstate his travel ban on seven Muslim-majority countries.

The Department of Homeland Security suspended all enforcement of Mr Trump's immigration ban following a nationwide locking of the executive order from federal judge James Robart in Washington.

Mr Trump called the order from the "so-called" judge "ridiculous".

President Donald Trump lashes out at US judge on Twitter

However, the White House said the government would adhere to the court's ruling until the Justice Department intervenes.

But the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Franciscodenied the Justice Department's request, and instead asked both the state of Washington and the Trump administration to file more arguments at the start of next week.

The higher court's denial of an immediate stay means legal battles over the ban will continue into the coming week at least.

Acting Solicitor General Noel Francisco forcefully argued in the government's brief thatpresidential authority is "largely immune from judicial control" when it comes to deciding who can enter or stay in the United States.

Mr Trump's executive order sought to ban all travellers from the seven countries for 90 days and suspended the US's refugee program for 120 days.

It also indefinitely suspended ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US.

More follows

**Load-Date:** February 5, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Cologne sexual assaults: Leaked police report reveals 'chaos beyond description' as women attacked; 'I'm Syrian, you have to treat me nicely! Angela Merkel invited me,' one man reportedly told officers*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HT7-DRF1-F021-6489-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 8, 2016 Friday 10:39 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 660 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

A leaked police report has revealed chaos "beyond description" in Cologne on New Year's Eve, as seen through the eyes of the outnumbered officers trying to contain the disorder.

An account seen by

Der Spiegel

magazine and

Bild

newspaper was written by a senior officer in the German Federal Police.

He described terrified women being forced to "literally run through a gauntlet of extremely intoxicated men" outside the city's main railway station as "fights, thefts, sex, assaults on women" continued all around.

NYE celebrations in Cologne

Police have come under heavy criticism for their response on the night, which is now the subject of more than 120 separate criminal complaints - mostly of sexual assault and robbery.

"In the course of the operation numerous crying and shocked women and girls approached officers to reportsexual assaults by male migrants or groups," the report said.

Read more

Anti-Muslim group Pegida to stage rally in Cologne after sex attacks

'Some of the Cologne sex attackers claimed to be ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

British girl describes horror witnessing Cologne sexual attacks

Cologne 'mass sex assault' claims rise

"Unfortunately it wasn't possible to identify them all."

The unidentified officer wrote that police could not prevent or even record all the crimes and attacks because there were "just too many at the same time".

He said the police presence did not seem to deter the men committing offences, including some who even mocked police as they struggled to reach victims through the crowds.

Vans arriving as back-up were also allegedly targeted by fireworks and officers pelted with glass bottles by huge crowds between Cologne's iconic cathedral and railway station.

Police sent 143 local officers and 70 federal officers into the area in a large-scale operation to clear the area.

The report described "several thousand people, mostly male, of a migrant background who were firing all kinds of fireworks and throwing bottles into the crowd at random".

A 17-year-old British girl previously told how she escaped serious injury when a rocket exploded behind her as she celebrated New Year's Eve with her boyfriend.

Read more

'Arab gang' attacks spark fresh debate about immigration in Germany

"We heard a woman screaming and crying somewhere in the midst of this crowd, appearing to be escaping from a foreign man, who was shouting back and pointing his finger at her and chasing her with his accomplices," she wrote.

"Later on, we saw two men corner women at the cathedral and touch them while they were screaming for help and trying to fight back."

The square was cleared shortly after midnight, police said, although some of the suspects complained of their treatment.

A man claiming to be an asylum seeker is quoted in the report as saying: "I'm Syrian, you have to treat me nicely! Angela Merkel invited me."

Women march through Cologne holding placards reading 'Against Sexism, Against Racism'

A spokesperson for the German Federal Police, Jens Floeren, confirmed the authenticity of the report to

The Local

but said it was one officer's "subjective assessment" of the incident three days afterwards.

Angela Merkel said Germany "will not accept" the assaults and said changes could be made to policing, while asylum seekers and Muslims across the country have voiced outrage.

Among members of a Facebook group for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Germany, some called for the perpetrators to be strongly punished and deported immediately, blaming them for stoking anti-migrant prejudice and increasing the risk of attacks.

Police said investigators working with video footage have identified 16 young men -mostly of North African origin -who may be suspects.

Additional reporting by AP

**Load-Date:** January 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: EU ministers agree to relocate 120,000 asylum seekers; The agreement came despite legal threats and over objections of several eastern European nations*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H07-S891-JCJY-G165-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 22, 2015 Tuesday 7:23 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 611 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz

**Body**

Amid legal threats and over the objections of four eastern European nations, EU interior ministers meeting in Brussels have pushed through a controversial plan to relocate 120,000 refugees across the continent.

The vote came as EU leaders are due to gather in Brussels for an emergency summit to tackle the escalating migration crisis. Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and the Czech Republic voted against the proposal to set binding relocation quotas of asylum seekers for each EU member state, as part of a plan to ease the strain on countries that are the first point of entry for most refugees, such as Greece or Italy.

The relocation proposal, unveiled two weeks ago by the European Commission, allocates refugees to each member state based on how big they are, how rich they are, how many asylum seekers they already have, and their unemployment rate.

In graphics: Refugees in the EU

The Czech government earlier indicated that compulsory quotas were illegal and that it could take the issue to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. At the same time, the Hungarian parliament passed a resolution calling on its government to "defend itself by every necessary means" against "waves [of] illegal immigration".

The measure was strongly backed by Germany and France. Yet even among its supporters, there are growing concerns about whether a mandatory regime can be enforced. Some officials have admitted that refugees fleeing war and crossing seas and continents are unlikely to accept orders to stay in, say, Slovakia, when they really want to be in Germany.

But German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière insisted that this would not happen. "Refugees cannot decide to which country they want to go. If they want to move somewhere else, they will be sent back to the first EU country to which they were allocated," he said.

Britain, which has an opt-out from such migration issues, has refused to take in any refugees from overstretched frontline EU states. Instead, it has said it will resettle 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from outside Europe over the next five years, with the government saying the first had arrived in the UK.

Home Secretary Theresa May has urged her counterparts to "get on with the job of the wider measures that need to be taken of ensuring that we are breaking the link for economic migrants between making this dangerous journey and settling in Europe".

Read more: Hungary: 'Croatia violating international law' over refugee crisisHungary deploys soldiers to borders as door slams shut on refugeesThousands left stranded after Hungary blocked by razor wire

Mrs May said: "We need to return those people who are illegally economic migrants and who have no right to be here and ensure that people arriving at Europe's borders are being properly dealt with, properly fingerprinted so that decisions can be made and when they are illegal economic migrants, they can be returned."

As well as endorsing the quota deal, EU leaders are due to discuss longer-term strategies for dealing with the crisis, particularly increasing cooperation with Turkey and the other countries bordering war-torn Syria, where an estimated four million refugees are currently living.

European Council President Donald Tusk, who chairs EU summits, has said that the EU needs to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** find a better life closer to home. He has called for more aid to the World Food Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He also wants to strengthen the EU's asylum agency, Frontex, into a full border and coastguard agency, and has said drawing up a list of "safe countries" whose citizens would not normally qualify for asylum, would also be up for discussion.

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2015

**End of Document**



[*EU ministers agree to relocate 120,000 refugees; Theresa May says illegal economic migrants should be fingerprinted and returned*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H0C-3301-F072-41NR-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 23, 2015 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 8

**Length:** 586 words

**Byline:** LEO CENDROWICZ IN BRUSSELS

**Body**

Amid legal threats and over the objections of four eastern European nations, EU interior ministers meeting in Brussels last night pushed through a controversial plan to relocate 120,000 refugees across the continent.

The vote came as EU leaders were due to gather in Brussels today for an emergency summit to tackle the escalating migration crisis. Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and the Czech Republic voted against the proposal to set binding relocation quotas of asylum seekers for each EU member state, as part of a plan to ease the strain on countries that are the first point of entry for most refugees, such as Greece or Italy.

The relocation proposal, unveiled two weeks ago by the European Commission, allocates refugees to each member state based on how big they are, how rich they are, how many asylum seekers they already have, and their unemployment rate.

The Czech government earlier indicated that compulsory quotas were illegal and that it could take the issue to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. At the same time, the Hungarian parliament yesterday passed a resolution calling on its government to "defend itself by every necessary means" against "waves [of] illegal immigration".

The measure was strongly backed by Germany and France. Yet even among its supporters, there are growing concerns about whether a mandatory regime can be enforced. Some officials have admitted that refugees fleeing war and crossing seas and continents are unlikely to accept orders to stay in, say, Slovakia, when they really want to be in Germany.

But German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière insisted that this would not happen. "Refugees cannot decide to which country they want to go. If they want to move somewhere else, they will be sent back to the first EU country to which they were allocated," he said.

Britain, which has an opt-out from such migration issues, has refused to take in any refugees from overstretched frontline EU states. Instead, it has said it will resettle 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from outside Europe over the next five years, with the government last night saying the first had arrived in the UK.

Home Secretary Theresa May last night urged her counterparts to "get on with the job of the wider measures that need to be taken of ensuring that we are breaking the link for economic migrants between making this dangerous journey and settling in Europe".

Mrs May said: "We need to return those people who are illegally economic migrants and who have no right to be here and ensure that people arriving at Europe's borders are being properly dealt with, properly fingerprinted so that decisions can be made and when they are illegal economic migrants, they can be returned."

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**20,000**

Syrians to be accepted by UK

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2015

**End of Document**



[*'I would love to go to Europe but I am too scared'; Refugee crisis More than one million refugees are stranded in Lebanon, where basic provisions are lacking, reports VENETIA RAINEY*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW5-H4N1-JCS0-D1YD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 8, 2015 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 555 words

**Byline:** VENETIA RAINEY

**Body**

"I would go by sea if I could," says Hiba Sayyed softly, her lips pursing in quiet anger as she speaks. "But it costs $5,000 and I don't have that money. If I had it, yes, even if I might die in the sea I would go - life here is too hard."

Ms Sayyed, 24, is just one of more than 1.1 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** being hosted by Lebanon, a tiny country that had a population of four million before civil war broke out in neighbouring Syria.

Her story is typical. A year or so ago, her husband went missing in their hometown of Ghouta - the Damascus suburb hit by a chemical weapons attack believed to be the work of the Assad government. Fearing for her life, she fled to Lebanon with her five children and now lives in poverty in an informal camp in the Chouf Mountains.

"I want to educate my kids, I want to feed them," she says as she waits in line for food kits from the UK charity, Islamic Relief. "None of them are able to go to a formal school here, and the food aid gets smaller every day. Nothing is easy."

Lebanon has been overwhelmed by its refugee crisis. The government has refused to set up formal camps like those in Turkey and Jordan, which provide refugees with plumbing, drinkable water, weather-proof shelters and regular electricity. Instead, refugees like Ms Sayyed are spread out across the country, mostly in poor, rural neighbourhoods and have to depend on handouts from a variety of aid organisations, which can be sporadic and insufficient. The World Food Programme announced this summer that funding shortfalls had forced it to cut the value of its food vouchers for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Lebanon in half, to just £9 a month.

Many of the refugees have been here for years, and have no hope of returning to Syria soon, but see little chance for a future in Lebanon. Just 30 per cent of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon are able to go to school.

The hope for a better life - particularly for one's children - is the driving factor behind a refugee crisis that much of the Middle East has been shouldering for years, and that has now begun to wash up on the shores of Europe. In Europe, there are fears of a potentially overwhelming influx. Denmark has placed ads in several Lebanese newspapers warning potential asylum-seekers of new restrictions. But the reality is that less than 10 per cent of the 4.5 million Syrians who have escaped the four-year conflict have sought safety in Europe, according to the UNHCR. More than 50 per cent are in Turkey.

At Ketermaya, an informal settlement for more than 300 refugees, mothers cradle babies with flushed cheeks and sticky eyes while shoeless children dart in and out of the tents they call home.

At the mention of the idea of going to Europe, crowds of desperate men and women quickly gather. Waving passports and refugee documents, they are all eager to know which is the best country to apply to and how to get there alive. "I would love to go to Europe," pleads Farah Nimer, 29. "But I am too scared to go by boat. I can't even swim, let alone my three children. I would be the first to drown.

"If Britain offered to resettle me I would go in a second," she adds, pulling her two-month-old baby closer. "My daughter is sick, they think she has blood cancer and she needs a transfusion. I can't afford it and UNHCR says they can't cover it. Is Britain good to refugees?"

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*In Canada, Harper's Conservatives seem to have forgotten a cherished tradition*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GYY-4HH1-F072-40D8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 21, 2015 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 26

**Length:** 975 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

Europe's refugee epic reached as far as the frozen heights of the Rockies yesterday, in a gentle, very Canadian way. At an international economics conference in the grand old town of Banff - snow already dusting the slopes of Mount Rundle far above us - Dr Tom Thompson of Olds College, the largest agricultural school in Alberta, came up to ask me how he might bring ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to his university. "It is our Canadian tradition, to help refugee families," he told me. "I'd love to help." I put him in touch by phone with international agricultural advisers in the Arab world, including Beirut.

He meant what he said. Just as, on the other side of the mountains on squeaky-clean Vancouver Island, the leader of Canada's Green Party - two MPs in Ottawa, perhaps another 10 after the 19 October national elections - wants to help the Arab refugees streaming up the landmass of Europe. Elizabeth May was herself once a refugee lawyer (she used to help ship-jumpers in Halifax port) and wants Canada to shine in its response to something her country has always cherished: helping the world's poor and oppressed. Canada took in the huddled masses of Vietnamese boat people - 55,000 of them - in the 1970s. So why not the Syrians, and Iraqis, and Afghans, today?

But here, alas, we must report a sordid and bigoted tale deep within a country famous for its multiculturalism. Stephen Harper's weird Conservative government - its security laws fear-mongering their way through a population normally famous for its generosity - is even more reluctant than our own beloved David Cameron's Cabinet to take in the families fighting their way from the death-pits of the Middle East.

Harper's been talking oddly of "old-stock Canadians" - effectively excluding hundreds of thousands of Canada's new Muslim population from the country's modern history, and virtually second-tiering their citizenship. His immigration minister, Chris Alexander - desperately trying to claw back any shred of the Canadian Conservative Party's principals - has been talking these past few hours of taking in more than an earlier figure of 20,000. This was also an attempt to clean up his own reputation after scolding a television journalist and the media in general for not paying attention to the crisis - when he had himself been refusing all interviews on the subject.

Canada has made plenty of offers of help to Christian, Yazidi and other minority groups fleeing Isis territory over the past year, but precious few for the latest and far more formidable exodus, on grounds that are perfectly clear to millions of Canadians: they are Sunni Muslims.

Right-wing newspapers and ministers have tried - without any evidence - to suggest that Isis has hidden its agents among the refugees, thus presenting the suffering of these people not as a humanitarian concern but as security problem. These snide attempts to smear hundreds of thousands of people as terrorists have reached proportions which would be comical if they were not so immoral.

Harper's Defence Minister, Jason Kenney, has blathered on about meeting refugees in Middle East camps whose relatives were fighting a "jihad" against the Syrian regime - something the West has been encouraging Syrians to do for three years - and thus security must "take precedence" over receiving those fleeing the battlefields. His grotesque sympathy for the refugees makes cringing reading, for he damns them even as he claims to agree with their innocence. "I do not mean to suggest for a moment that all or most of the people in the camps are connected to terrorist organisations or contribute a security risk but it is plainly evident that some do. It would be imprudent in the extreme to pretend otherwise." Not for a moment, indeed??? And note the "all or most" bit: if all or most of the refugees are not "terrorists" then presumably an awful lot are: that's the wretched man's message!

As the Toronto Star columnist Haroun Siddiqui commented, Harper's government is "pandering to the dangerous stereotype that all Muslims are potential terrorists". And not only the government. In a particularly frightening article in the right-wing National Post, Father Raymond J De Souza, a Canadian university chaplain as well as a parish priest, says that refugee camps are home to "Sunni Muslims, not a few of which look kindly towards Isil [Isis]" and that "it would be foolish to bring to Canada extremist elements that may be useful in making trouble for Assad but would also be troublesome in Canada". Individual church groups are trying to help, but somehow the good father's message seems a little different from what Christ would have said.

Sure, a new opinion poll suggests that 38 per cent of Canadians still believe Harper's lads and lassies would "make the best decision for Canada on the Syrian refugee situation", but at least Canada's ex-military men - usually the most flatulent of crusty old generals - have had the guts to walk a little taller than the politicians. The country's former military commander Rick Hillier is suggesting that Canada's armed forces themselves could bring in 50,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** by Christmas. Roméo Dallaire, the UN's commander in the Rwanda bloodbath, a fine man deeply troubled by what he was forced to witness in Africa, has talked of bringing up to 90,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to Canada who would be an "asset" to the country. Security is a smokescreen, he says. "I think Canada and its decision so far in regards to refugees is nothing less than atrocious and totally foreign to what and who we are."

Back in the 1970s, Canadian politicians sowed the same "security" rubbish about the Vietnamese boat people - they might be "communist" was the tag-line then, though not one turned out to be. But the Harper gang probably haven't read that far back in their country's history. Be sure that Dr Thompson has.

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syrian child photographed 'surrendering to camera because she thought it was a gun'; Turkish photographer Osman Sagirli took this picture at a Syrian refugee camp*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5FMX-56X1-F021-635T-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 31, 2015 Tuesday 12:32 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 575 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

This photo of a Syrian child so scarred by war that she stared into a camera lens believing it was the barrel of a gun and raised her arms in surrender has  been shared around the world.

The fear in the little girl's eyes as she bit her lip to stop herself crying has caused an outpouring of emotion about the "heart-breaking" image showing how "humanity failed" in the Syrian civil war.

It spread across social media this week after it was tweeted by a photojournalist in Gaza.

Nadia Abu Shaban's post on 24 March has been shared more than 14,000 times, sparking threads on Reddit and other forums being inundated with thousands of comments.

photojournalist took this photo 4 Syrian child, thought he has a weapon not a camera so she Gave up ! #Surrendedpic.twitter.com/bm1hOWQWJY- Nadia AbuShaban (@NadiaAbuShaban) March 24, 2015

She said the child thought the photographer had "a weapon not a camera" but the lack of further information caused viewers to speculate that the image was fake, posed or taken in an unrelated situation.

But now the man who took the photo has come forward to explain the real context behind it.

Read more: Four million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** driven from their homesSyrian refugees poke fun at Isis and Assad in viral videosHow is the UK helping Syria's refugee crisis?

Osman Sagirli told the BBC he took the photo in December last year at Atmeh refugee camp, near the Turkish border.

Now working in Tanzania, he said the child was a four-year-old girl called Hudea who was forced to flee fighting near her home in Hama with her mother and two siblings.

"I was using a telephoto lens and she thought it was a weapon," Mr Sagirli recounted.

"I realised she was terrified after I took it, and looked at the picture, because she bit her lips and raised her hands. Normally kids run away, hide their faces or smile when they see a camera."

During his 25 years covering conflict and disasters for the Türkiye newspaper, he has visited many refugee camps and told the BBC that suffering can be most keenly be seen through children because they "reflect the feelings with their innocence".

The image was first published by Türkiye in January alongside an article on the desperate families fleeing the Syrian war, claiming Hudea's father was killed by bombing in Hama. In pictures: Syria's escalating refugee crisis

The province was the scene of an offensive by the Syrian opposition in December 2012 that sparked a counter-operation by the Syrian Army leading to battles in dozens of towns and villages, as well as the alleged massacre of hundreds of civilians.

More than 200,000 people have been killed so far in the Syrian civil war, where Isis, other Islamist militants, secular rebels and President Bashar al-Assad's government are fighting on numerous fronts.

Most of the 3.9 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt see no prospect of returning home in the near future and have little opportunity to restart their lives in exile, according the UN's refugee agency.

Millions of children are suffering from trauma and ill health, with a quarter of Syria's schools have been damaged, destroyed or taken over for shelter and more than half of the country's hospitals razed to the ground, the UNHCR said.

The Atmeh refugee camp, where Hudea was photographed, sprung up on the Turkish border at the start of the conflict in 2011.

Housing up to 30,000 people, it is known as the "Olive Tree Camp" after the groves surrounding it.

**Load-Date:** March 31, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Zara's parent company Inditex bans sale of angora; The retail group announced the decision to halt production of the material.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5F8F-3F91-JCJY-G0F2-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 10, 2015 Tuesday 10:48 AM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 209 words

**Byline:** Emma Akbareian

**Body**

Inditex, the world's largest fashion retailer which owns Zara amongst other stores, has announced it has banned production of angora.

The move comes amid increasing pressure on retailers from animal rights organisations to cease selling the animal product which is produced by rabbits.

Inditex brands including Zara and Massimo Dutti will now join the likes of Topshop, Marks and Spencer and Primark who have all banned the fabric from their rails.

In a statement the Spanish company Inditex said:

"We found no evidence of cruel practices at the angora farms of our suppliers. But after consultation with animal welfare organisations to help develop better standards within the industry we decided that banning angora production was the right decision".

The move will further strengthen the company's policy on animal welfare which already includes a ban on fur and commitment to responsible production standards for products with animal origins.

The company also announced that any current stock of the material it is holding will be donated to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Lebanon.

Peta described the announcement as "a massive victory for animals."

READ MORE: Peta condemns Kim Kardashian's 'furkini'Black Score teams up with Peta to create animal rights collection

**Load-Date:** February 10, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Paris attacks: Syrian refugees put shootings in French capital in perspective; More than 200,000 people are believed to have been killed since Syria descended into war in early 2011 - but far from creating empathy for the plight of those fleeing Isis in their homelands, the deaths of 129 in the French capital have led Europe's right to call for an end to refugee intakes altogether*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HCY-9DM1-JCJY-G2XB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 16, 2015 Monday 1:39 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 546 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

Amid reports that one of the Paris attackers travelled to Europe hidden on a refugee boat, the far-right leader Marine Le Pen has called for an "immediate halt" to France's intake of asylum-seekers.

For those travelling to seek a better life for themselves and their families, it appears fears a backlash against genuine asylum-seekers have been realised.

Border controls already hardening in the midst of the unprecedented refugee crisis are being shut altogether across Belgium, Italy and France.

And while those measures are in part to prevent the escape of those who planned and helped carry out the attacks on the French capital, political leaders in Poland, Latvia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic have issued statements linking the attacks to the numbers arriving.

The European Commission president, Jean-Claude Juncker, has warned Europe against confusing refugees and terrorists, asking the public not to "give in to such basic reactions".

Read more

England football fans encouraged to sing French national anthem

Paris attacks may have been arranged on a PlayStation 4

Paris attacks: Europe observes minute's silence in memory of dead

Military intervention 'coming back to hunt West' says Ken Livingstone

And speaking to the AFP News Agency, a Syrian refugee named Ghaled said he wished the empathy for the scores killed Paris could be translated to empathy for the hundreds of thousands dead in his home country.

Visiting the French embassy in Berlin to pay his respects, he said he feared "mistrust" of Arabs across Europe would now turn to "hate".

"What's happening to them is happening every day in Syria, 100 times per day for five years, so we know what that means," the 22-year-old said.

Those who attacked Paris were "criminals", Mr Juncker said at the G20 summit in Turkey, "not refugees, not asylum seekers".

"Those who organised these attacks and those that perpetrated them are exactly those that the refugees are fleeing and not the opposite," he said.

In Lucé, a suburb of the French town of Chartes with a significant Muslim community, mosque official Ismail Snussi told

The Independent

he was "fearful for what comes next".

Osmar Ismail Mostefai, the first gunman identified by police in the aftermath of the shooting, attended the mosque in Luce until two years ago before he disappeared.

"What he did was not part of Islam," Mr Snussi said. "Our true religion really is one of peace and co-existence, but now I'm fearful for what comes next. We're concerned about a crackdown, from the state, the police, and the press. We may become the focus of people's anger."

More than 200,000 Syrians have been killed since the start of the country's civil war in 2011, according to theSyrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Amnesty International UK's Syria Campaign Manager Kristyan Benedict told

The Independent

that it was "no secret" the vast majority of civilian deaths there were at the hands of President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

"It's important that ISIS's many crimes are properly documented and the perpetrators brought to justice, she said. "But the far bigger killing machine in Syria is the one made in Damascus."

**Load-Date:** November 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Charities' open letter to David Cameron: We applaud British aid to Syria, but aid is not enough*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DPC-HF91-F021-637V-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 26, 2014 Wednesday 6:53 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 644 words

**Body**

Dear Prime Minister,

The conflict in Syria has caused the worst humanitarian crisis of our generation and, four years in, is still destroying millions of lives.

At least 3.2 million refugees have fled to neighbouring countries placing these states under enormous strain.

Britain prides itself on a tradition of offering help to those in need. Over the years we have offered refuge to thousands at risk from war or oppression, reaching out to Vietnamese, Ugandan Asians and Kosovars to offer them a home.

Figures released on Thursday will show that Britain has only so far resettled around 100 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, a woefully inadequate number compared to the scale of the crisis.

While we applaud Britain's generous aid contribution to the crisis, it is clear that aid alone is not enough. Syria's neighbours are struggling under the weight of this unprecedented crisis and it is time we stopped asking of them what we are not doing ourselves.

We are therefore calling on rich and developed countries to agree collectively to resettle at least 5 per cent of the total Syrian refugee population by the end of 2015. This is a modest but proportionate contribution and Britain's fair share of that would involve offering hope for up to 10,000 Syrians in that time. That's less than 0.3% of all the refugees, but would transform, even save, lives.

Life for the majority of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** is desperate, but some are simply unable to survive in the region. For torture victims, women who have survived sexual violence, sick children who, without treatment, could die, life outside the war is a daily battle. These are the people Britain has promised to help and we must help more of them.

On 9 December, a pledging conference on resettlement will be hosted by the UN High Commission for Refugees in Geneva. Britain should use this opportunity to take the lead alongside other European countries who have pledged to resettle thousands of refugees from Syria.

In this case, numbers speak louder than words. To do anything other than increase our pledge to thousands, not hundreds, would be to send the wrong message to Syria's most vulnerable people, and the countries currently hosting them, all desperately asking for our help.

Kate Allen, Director, Amnesty International

Maurice Wren, Chief Executive, British Refugee Council

Mark Goldring, Chief Executive, Oxfam

Justin Forsyth, Chief Executive, Save the Children

Wayne Myslik, Chief Executive, Asylum Aid

Ratip Alsulaimen, Director, British Syrian Education Centre

Chris Bain, Director, CAFOD

Laurie Lee, Chief Executive, CARE International UK

Paul Valentin, International Director, Christian Aid

Tiffy Allen, National Coordinator, City of Sanctuary

Dr Carol Homden CBE, Director, Coram Children's Legal Centre

Chris Doyle, Director, Council for Arab-British Understanding (CAABU)

Aine O'Brien, Co-Director, Counterpoints Arts

Leigh Daynes, Executive Director, Doctors of the World UK

Beryl Randall, Director, Employability Forum

Aleema Shivji, Chief Executive, Handicap International UK

Mazen Ejbaei, President, Help 4 Syria

Othman Moqbel, Chief Executive, Human Appeal

Fr. Peter Balleis SJ, International Director, Jesuit Refugee Service

Zrinka Bralo, Executive Director, Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum

Shahid Bashir, Deputy Chief Executive, Muslim Hands UK

Dr Mohamed Nasreldin, General Manager, North of England Refugee Service

Jim Steinke, Chief Executive, Northern Refugee Centre

Sally Daghlian OBE, Chief Executive Officer, Praxis Community Projects

Dave Garratt, Chief Executive, Refugee Action

John Wilkes, Chief Executive, Scottish Refugee Council

Emma Williams, Chief Executive, Student Action for Refugees

Ros Holland, Chief Executive, The Boaz Trust

Anna Nolan, The Syria Campaign

Salah Mohamed, Chief Executive, Welsh Refugee Council

Natasha Walter, Women for Refugee Women

**Load-Date:** November 26, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Germany recruits 8,500 teachers to teach German to child refugees; Around325,000 school-aged children from war-torn countriesreached Germany in 2015*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HPX-X201-F021-63W8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 28, 2015 Monday 5:54 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 248 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

Germany has recruited 8,500 teachers to teach German to thousands of child refugees escaping from war-torn countries in the Middle East.

Around 196,000 child refugees will enter the German school system this year, and 8,264 "special classes" have been created to help them catch up,

German daily newspaper

Die Welt

reported

.

According to Germany's education authority, around325,000 school-aged children from Syria, Afghanistan and African countriesreached Germany in 2015.

It is expecting more than a million refugees this year, five times more than in 2014.

However, the challenge may be more difficult than simply teaching foreign students a new language.

Read more

Humans of New York raises $700,000 for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in three days

Czech President describes wave of refugees as 'an organised invasion'

Britain turning away majority of refugees fleeing Afghanistan war

One million and counting: Europe reflects on the year of refugees

Many refugee children have lost years of education and one-in-five child refugees arriving in Germany have post-traumatic stress disorder,

the

Guardian

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.

Brunhild Kurth, who heads the education authority,

told

Die Welt

: "Schools and education administrations have never been confronted with such a challenge.

"We must accept this exceptional situation will become the norm for a long time to come."

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*George and Amal Clooney meet with Angela Merkel to discuss Refugee Crisis; David Miliband was also present*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J2X-PJP1-JCJY-G1RR-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 13, 2016 Saturday 1:31 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 216 words

**Byline:** Olivia Blair

**Body**

George and Amal Clooney have met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel to discuss the refugee crisis and war in Syria.

The actor and his human rights lawyer wife had a 40-minute private meeting in Berlin with the Chancellor and former British foreign secretary David Miliband, who is now the President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee.

According to the

Guardian

, Clooney had earlier in the day told reporters he "absolutely agrees" with Germany's open door policy towards refugees fleeing war in Syria.

Mr Miliband said the group discussed what countries around the world can do to solve "what is a global problem, not just a Syrian problem or a German issue", the former Labour party politicianalso praised Ms Merkel for "showing very strong leadership" throughout the crisis.

On Friday, the

Ocean's Eleven

actor told

Reuters

that, for, him "the refugee crisis is not just the ***Syrian*** ***refugees***" and raised the continuing plight of refugees from South Sudan and Darfur.

"It's really all over the world," he said, "60 million displaced people right now in the world - it's just a terrible, terrible time for it."

Clooney is in the German capital to promote his latest film

Hail, Ceaser!

which was showcased at the Berlin Film Festival.

Additional reporting by Associated Press.

**Load-Date:** February 13, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Germany recruits 8,500 teachers to teach German to child refugees; Around325,000 school-aged children from war-torn countriesreached Germany in 2015*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HPX-RF31-JCJY-G27R-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 28, 2015 Monday 5:53 PM GMT

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"We must accept this exceptional situation will become the norm for a long time to come."

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Birmingham becomes official City of Sanctuary for refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHT-8RH1-F021-61PF-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 4, 2015 Friday 4:46 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 273 words

**Byline:** Will Grice

**Body**

Birmingham has become an officialCity of Sanctuary for refugees fleeing war torn countries such as Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a formal ceremony, Birmingham citycouncil announced it wouldjoin more than 40 other locations across the country in the City of Sanctuary movement.

Read more

Government refuses to house more refugees after starting Syria strikes

More than 1,000 Rabbis call on United States to welcome refugees

600 refugees sign open letter demanding assisted suicide

Britons twice as hostile as French to refugees after Paris attacks

The council proposed the idea after a campaign to makeBirmingham part of the scheme.

The movement is designed to help placerefugees in homes that have space to accomodate them.

It also looks to integrate them into the community, with the councilencouragingcommunity associations, sports clubs and other local groups to joinin welcomingrefugees.

Speaking at the formal ceremony,Councillor Shafique Shah said:"Refugees, like other new arrivals from overseas, have made a huge contribution to our diverse city," he will say.

"But on arrival they all need help to understand our way of life and to integrate into our community."

Birmingham's council had already agreed to rehome 50 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and hopes to find spots for many more throughthe City of Sanctuary programme.

The announcementcomes following aInternational Rescue Committee callfor Britain to house more refugees after MPs voted in favour of the UK carrying out air strikes inSyria.

**Load-Date:** December 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugees coming to Europe an 'organised invasion', says Czech President Milos Zeman; Milos Zeman says young men fleeing the Middle East should stay behind and take up arms*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HPP-3NM1-F021-631N-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 27, 2015 Sunday 12:35 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 224 words

**Byline:** Shehab Khan

**Body**

The Czech President has called the wave of refugees coming to Europe an "organised invasion".

In his Christmas message, Milos Zeman said that you men should not come to Europe and should stay in Syria to fight Isis.

"I am profoundly convinced that we are facing an organised invasion and not a spontaneous movement of refugees," Mr Zeman said.

Mr Zeman added that children, the old and the sick deserve compassion but single young men fleeing the Middle East should stay behind and take up arms.

Read more

No end in sight for terrorism or the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** fleeing to safety

Inside the refugee camp with conditions 'far worse' than the Jungle

Britain turning away majority of refugees fleeing Afghanistan war

One million and counting: Europe reflects on the year of refugees

Likening the current situation to Czechs who left their country during Nazi occupation from 1939 to 1945, the 71-year-old said refugees fleeing their war-torn nations were only strengthening Isis.

In November, Mr Zeman attended an anti-Islam rally in Praguein the company of a paramilitary unit and far-right politicians.

More than one million peoplereachedEurope in 2015, fleeing violence in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria.

**Load-Date:** December 27, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugees coming to Europe an 'organised invasion', says Czech President Milos Zeman; Milos Zeman says young men fleeing the Middle East should stay behind and take up arms*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HPP-3NM1-F021-631P-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 27, 2015 Sunday 1:09 PM GMT

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**Load-Date:** December 27, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Watch Donald Trump's most controversial moments during his presidential campaign; The Republican presidential frontrunner has received a barrage of criticism following his proposal to ban all Muslims travelling to the United States.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HJW-4SH1-F021-641T-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 9, 2015 Wednesday 4:29 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 208 words

**Byline:** Ryan Ramgobin

**Body**

It has been an eventful six months since Donald Trump announced his candidacy to become the next President of the United States and to "make America great again".

The tone was set in his announcement speech when Mr Trump said: "I will build a great, great wall on our southern border and have Mexico pay for that wall... mark my words."

Read more

"There not sending their best... They're sending people who have lots of problems. And they're bringing their problems to us. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists and some I assume are good people."

The refugee crisis which received worldwide attention in autumn saw Mr Trump tell ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** that if he was President they will be sent back.

The latest controversy came on Monday when Mr Trump stated: "We need a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States while we figure out what the hell is going on."

Read more

Nicola Sturgeon strips Donald Trump of Scottish ambassador role

Trump to visit controversial Jerusalem site, PM Netanyahu

His comments have been met with widespread criticism with 200,000 people signing a petition to block Mr Trump from entering the United Kingdom.

**Load-Date:** December 9, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Maine sheriffs visit Isis-inspired Christmas display; Concerned neighbors called local authorities and media over Christmas display featuring "ISIS" written in ruby-red lights*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HKY-H4G1-F021-651B-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 14, 2015 Monday 6:33 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 240 words

**Byline:** Massoud Hayoun

**Body**

The concerned residents of a southern Maine town alerted law enforcement and local media to what they believed was a pro-ISIS Christmas display last weekend.

York County Sheriff William King, Jr. told

The Independent

that deputies visited the home in Limerick, Maine on Saturday and found "Isis" - the acronym for the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria armed group - written out in ruby-red Christmas lights in an unidentified man'sfront yard.

"What is not so clear is that Santa Claus is 'relieving'himself on the words (see white stream)," Sheriff King saidin an email including the above photograph.

"Deputies spoke with the homeowner explaining why the sheriff's office took an interest in his holiday display, and the homeownerstated he was going to rearrange the lights to clear up any doubts about his message," Sheriff King said.

He did not identify the individual behind the Isis-inspired Christmas display, but said that "no law was broken."

"We did not tell him to take the lights down or to reconfigure anything," Sheriff King said.

Read more

Canada PM welcomes ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as US Muslims warn against hate

A third of Americans want to ban Muslims, poll shows

San Bernardino shooters 'were radicalized before' online dating

Donald Trump is still surging in the latest national poll

**Load-Date:** December 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The Syrian refugee family in Texas happy to call the US 'our country'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M2R-F2S1-JCS0-D2F8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

November 1, 2016 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 26

**Length:** 1139 words

**Byline:** FELIKS GARCIA AUSTIN, TEXAS

**Body**

Bassam Al Abbas has only lived in Austin, Texas, for five months - and he is thriving. But the outlook did not always appear so positive for him, his wife, Manal Hamid, and their three boys. They fled their home in Damascus three years ago, as the country descended into a massive civil war that sparked the largest refugee crisis in modern history.

Al Abbas considers himself lucky to be in Texas despite the current debate over allowing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** into the country. The topic has ensnared the presidential race and taken shape in state politics amid the popular nervousness that Isis sympathisers will enter the US, propagated by Donald Trump's candidacy. "It's the most difficult thing in the world to see your kids hungry," Al Abbas told The Independent, speaking through an interpreter in the office of his sponsorship organisation, Refugee Services of Texas.

His home became too dangerous as the civil war progressed. The government instituted curfews throughout the country. If Al Abbas left his house, he could have been imprisoned or killed. "It was like a war zone. When we say 'problems', when we say 'events', we talk about war," he explained. "How could someone send their kids to school in conditions like this?"

He added: "The Syrian government would see anybody between 18 and 40 who did not wear the Syrian military uniform, that they are going to be the enemy. Every party, every group, they had one policy: if you are not with me, you are against me." Al Abbas said he and his family fled to Az-Zarqa, Jordan, in 2013. He began taking up construction work through a friend's company, but still there were too few professional opportunities for Manal and himself - and little in the way of education for their sons Amjad, Yaman, and Aman - now aged 5, 10, and 13. "Life was difficult [in Jordan]. Very few job opportunities," he said. "When I was told I could go to America, finally I see the hope."

Trump has campaigned on the specific promise of banning the admittance of all immigrants from predominantly Muslim countries. With specific focus placed on Syria, Trump has proposed a policy of "extreme vetting" of people seeking refugee status, while warning of a "Trojan Horse" attack from Isis hidden in the migrant population. Trump's language mirrors that of Texas governor Greg Abbott and attorney Ggneral Ken Paxton, who have put forth significant opposition to Syrian resettlement in the state.

In September, Abbott announced the Texas government no longer accepted funding from the US Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) on the condition that the federal department "unconditionally approve" exhaustive screening procedures for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and only accept people who "are fully vetted and do not present a security threat". Paxton quietly dropped a 10-month lawsuit early last month that sought to bar Syrian settlement in Texas, after federal courts rejected similar lawsuits in other states - including Indiana, home of Trump's running mate, Mike Pence.

Texas received 7,802 refugees between October 2015 and October 2016, according to State Department figures. Approximately one thousand settled in Austin between two organisations, RST and Caritas, who supported about 500 each. Seventy-five per cent of refugees admitted to the state have been women and children. Now, the ORR must allocate funding to a yet-to-be-determined non-profit organisation after Mr Abbott effectively ended 40 years of the state's participation in the federal programme.

Still, reality does not reflect what conservative lawmakers suggest about the admittance process for refugees coming to the US. "It was really difficult to apply. It's kind of random, actually," Al Abbas said, speaking through an interpreter from his sponsorship organisation, Refugee Services of Texas. He explained that when he applied through the United Nations in 2014, seven different agencies had to review the family's application.

Over 20 months, the Al Abbas family went through seven layers of security screenings throughout their application requesting refugee status in the US. The existing screening process is rather extensive, too. First, refugee applicants must supply identifiable information to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - which, for Syrian and other Middle Eastern applicants includes biometrics like iris scans.

Through the UNHCR, applicants are directed to a federally-funded Resettlement Support Centre. In the case of the Al Abbas family, Refugee Services of Texas served as the RSC, who then put together their application portfolio to send to four US security agencies (National Counterterrorism Centre, the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and the State Department). ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** require additional screening from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Fraud Detection and the National Security Directorate.

If any one of these agencies had declined Al Abbas and his family, he would still be in Jordan. "There are some people I know - they applied since 2014 - and they are still there. They have not made it," he said. "And many other people were denied to come to the US. They tell them that their case was not accepted because probably six security agencies said yes, and one said no. That's enough for denial."

Despite the overt hostility of conservative lawmakers in Texas, Al Abbas says he has found a new home and community in the sprawling state capital. Amid the oppositional climate, the population of Austin has risen up to support the influx of refugees. "We've seen an extreme increase in support from the community in response to the governor's announcement, which has been very positive for us and the families that we're serving," said Erica Schmidt-Portnoy, the area director for Refugee Services of Texas-Austin. "They have even more support than they've ever had."

Schmidt-Portnoy said that the organisation has seen the number of volunteers increase from about 100 to more than 1,250 over the past year. "We see that impact immediately with the refugees that we're serving," she explained. "Because instead of saying, 'we'll try to secure a volunteer to help you with that', we've got five volunteers who are ready right now. Every announcement that's made nationally or statewide that may contradict the work that we do or the populations that we serve, actually just pushes [the number of volunteers] even higher than it was before."

The first few weeks in Austin proved difficult for Al Assad and his family. But as they gain their footing in their apartment, at school, and at work, they feel more at home and part of a larger community. "Life has become more normal. We started to know our neighbours, the city we live in," he said. "We found jobs, the kids go to school. Now we just feel like any other normal people here. We feel like it's our country."

**Load-Date:** November 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Justin Trudeau defends open refugee policy to Donald Trump at meeting; Canadian Prime Minister hinted that his country would continue to welcome refugees without compromising national security*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MW1-30C1-JCJY-G4XW-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 13, 2017 Monday 7:44 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 217 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

Justin Trudeau said the US and Canada would continue to be good neighbours but would "not agree on everything", referring to Donald Trump's executive order to ban people from seven Muslim-majoritycountries.

Although Mr Trudeau did not directly criticise the President for the Muslim ban, he made it clear that Canada would continue to welcome refugees without compromising national security.

He said that although the US and Canada had "fought and died together" and shared a long history, "there have been times where we have differed in our approaches and that's always been done firmly and respectfully."

Read more

Donald Trump tells Justin Trudeau the US could be better for women

"The last thing Canadians expect is for me to come down and lecture another country on how they choose to govern themselves,"he continued.

"My role and responsibility is to continue to govern in such a way that reflects Canadians' approach and be a positive example in the world."

He added that Canada had welcomed 40,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** last year. The US took in 12,500.

Mr Trump responded that he wanted to keep "the very bad ones out" in the name of national security.

He insisted, however, that the relationship between the two countries was "outstanding"and that the talks with Mr Trudeau would be "very, very productive".

**Load-Date:** February 13, 2017

**End of Document**



[*If Trump really cared about Syrians, he wouldn't ban them from entering the US*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N8D-NDP1-F072-4522-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

April 8, 2017 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 26

**Length:** 644 words

**Byline:** SKYLAR BAKER-JORDAN

**Body**

On Thursday night, the United States - on President Donald Trump's order - bombed Syria following the use of chemical weapons on civilians by Bashar al-Assad. "That attack on children??? had a big effect on me," Trump said in a press conference on Wednesday. "My attitude towards Syria and Assad has changed very much." Suddenly, Trump feels a "responsibility" to the Syrian people, and the media is lauding his change of heart.

It's tempting to believe that the President of the United States is a decent human being, moved by pictures of dead children and compelled to act by breeches of international law and human rights. Yet nothing about Trump's long, well documented career indicates that he's capable of compassion, let alone towards persecuted Muslims.

I don't buy Trump's false conversion. He has routinely tweeted that the President needs congressional approval to use military force, something he didn't seek. He has, until now, demonstrated isolationist instincts that preclude America acting in its traditional role of world police. He has banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US and demonised Muslims on the campaign trail. Considering literally everything Trump has said and done over the past several years, forgive me if it's hard to fathom that he's acting entirely altruistically.

It's a truism in American politics that military action can improve a president's poll numbers and Trump needs Americans to forget his disastrous defeat on Obamacare repeal, which showed that the deal maker couldn't even deal with his own party. It cast serious doubt on his ability as a leader and made him look politically weak. There's no better way to remind the world you're president than bombing another country. Anyone who questioned his leadership ability on healthcare will suddenly see the President doing the most presidential thing he can do - exercising American military might.

This is also a great way of distracting from the probe into Trump's ties with Russia. It seems every other day a new secret meeting between a Trump campaign operative and a Russian official is uncovered, and it's looking increasingly like there was some nefarious collusion between Trump and the Russians in the 2016 election. Trump desperately needs to shirk the label of Siberian candidate. There are few better ways to demonstrate you aren't in Putin's pocket than to bomb his only Middle Eastern ally over his protestations.

The President needs a win. His poll numbers are historically low; no president has ever polled so badly so early in his term. By virtually every account this has been a disastrous first 100 days. Trump recognises that he needs to change the news cycle and generate some positive coverage. This is a tried-and-true way of doing just that.

This isn't meant to be a criticism of Trump's actions, but of his motives. We must do something in Syria, and it's high time we took out Assad's airfields. But if Trump really wanted to help the Syrian people, especially the children he saw gassed to death, he'd drop this abhorrent Muslim ban and open American borders to thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. He would, like British Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott advocated on last night's BBC Question Time, push for international sanctions on Russia until they stopped propping up the Assad regime. He would spearhead an international effort to remove Assad and defeat the so-called Islamic State by means of a UN resolution and military effort.

Trump doesn't care about the Syrian people, he cares about ratings - and right now his ratings suck. Instead of congratulating him on making the right decision for the wrong reasons, we should continue pressuring him to do more to alleviate this humanitarian crisis, and that's going to take more than air strikes. Until that happens, it's hard not to view these air strikes as nothing more than a political gambit.

**Load-Date:** April 7, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Theresa May under pressure to increase number of refugees taken by Britain; The Home Secretary is set to attend an EU summit over the crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXB-GFS1-F021-619W-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 14, 2015 Monday 7:03 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 203 words

**Byline:** Emily Dugan

**Body**

Theresa May is under pressure to increase the number of refugees Britain will accept ahead of an EU summit to deal with the crisis.

The Home Secretary is expected to attend the meeting of internal affairs ministers in Brussels, where politicians will discuss how to cope with the estimated 380,000 people who have travelled to Europe for sanctuary this year.

The former Foreign  Secretary David Miliband, now head of the aid agency International Rescue Committee, said: "The UK's decision to annually resettle 4,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over the next five years is the equivalent of accepting the number arriving on a single day on the beaches of the Greek island of Lesbos, where the IRC is providing humanitarian assistance."

The Home Office said Ms May stood by her comments to the House last week, when she said: "As this crisis has grown, the Government have done and will continue to do everything we can to help those in immediate need, and to stop the dreadful situation they are fleeing."

Read more: 28 people including babies killed after boat capsizesFootball fans wave banner reading 'Refugees Not Welcome'Germany to 'reintroduce border controls' with Austria

Click here to sign The Independent's Change.org petition

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide; This isthe broadest legal action against the president's controversial executive order*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT0-TMB1-JCJY-G4V2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 4, 2017 Saturday 12:27 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 245 words

**Byline:** Justin Carissimo

**Body**

A federal judge in Seattle has temporarily blocked President Trump's executive order banning entry into the United States from seven Muslim-majority countries.

US District Judge James Robert on Friday issued a temporary restraining order against the president's restrictions, siding with Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, who claims the immigration ban is unconstitutional.

In his complaint, the attorney general claims the Trump administration is violating the Constitution's protections for religious freedom.

The state of Minnesota has also joined the state of Washington's lawsuit which is backed by major companies including Amazon, Expedia, and institutions of higher-education.

New York and Virginia have also taken legal action against the president's ban.

Attorney Ferguson filed his lawsuit on Monday, promising to continue his fight against the ban.

"I firmly believe that no one is above the law, however, and I have a duty to protect all Washingtonians from unlawful actions that violate the Constitution," he said in a statement to CNBC on Monday. "I will continue this fight - all the way to the US Supreme Court if necessary - to uphold the rule of law."

President Trump's order banned immigration for 90 days from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. It also halted the admission of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely along with all other refugees for 120 days.

The order sparked confusion and outrage resulting in mass protests across the states.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Indyplus video: UK to admit more Syrian refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BD8-2X01-J9YR-G4C4-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 29, 2014 Wednesday 10:17 PM GMT

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**Section:** INDEPENDENT PLUS

**Length:** 16 words

**Body**

Theresa May on helping ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Nick Clegg says that the UK is to admit more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide; This isthe broadest legal action against the president's controversial executive order*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT0-TMB1-JCJY-G4V1-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 4, 2017 Saturday 12:27 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 231 words

**Byline:** Justin Carissimo

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**Load-Date:** February 4, 2017

**End of Document**



[*If Trump really cared about Syrian children, he wouldn't ban them from entering the US; Trump doesn't care about the Syrian people, he cares about ratings - and right now his ratings suck*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N88-H3X1-F021-607S-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 7, 2017 Friday 2:01 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES; Version:2

**Length:** 650 words

**Byline:** Skylar Baker-Jordan

**Body**

Last night, the United States -on President Donald Trump's order - bombed Syria following the use of chemical weapons on civilians by Bashar al-Assad. "That attack on children... had a big effect on me," Trump said in a press conference on Wednesday. "My attitude towards Syria and Assad has changed very much." Suddenly, Trump feels a "responsibility" to the Syrian people, and the media is lauding his change of heart.

It's tempting to believe that the President of the United States is a decent human being, moved by pictures of dead children and compelled to act by breeches of international law and human rights.Yet nothing about Trump's long, well documented career indicates that he's capable of compassion, let alone towards persecuted Muslims.

I don't buy Trump's false conversion. He has routinely tweeted that the President needs congressional approval to use military force, something he didn't seek. He has, until now, demonstrated isolationist instincts that preclude America acting in its traditional role of world police. He has banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US and demonised Muslims on the campaign trail. Considering literally everything Trump has said and done over the past several years, forgive me if it's hard to fathom that he's acting entirely altruistically.

US air strikes in Syria: How the world reacted

It's a truism in American politics that military action can improve a president's poll numbers and Trump needs Americans to forget his disastrous defeat on Obamacare repeal, which showed that the deal maker couldn't even deal with his own party. It cast serious doubton his ability as a leader and made him look politically weak. There's no better way to remind the world you're president than bombing another country. Anyone who questioned his leadership ability on healthcare will suddenly see the President doing the most presidential thing he can do - exercising American military might.

This is also a great way of distracting from the probe into Trump's ties with Russia. It seems every other day a new secret meeting between a Trump campaign operative and a Russian official is uncovered, and it's looking increasingly like there was some nefarious collusion between Trump and the Russians in the 2016 election. Trump desperately needs to shirk the label of Siberian candidate. There are few better ways to demonstrate you aren't in Putin's pocket than to bomb his only Middle Eastern ally over his protestations.

The President needs a win. His poll numbers are historically low; no president has ever polled so badly so early in his term. By virtually every account this has been a disastrous first 100 days. Trump recognises that he needs to change the news cycle and generate some positive coverage. This is a tried-and-true way of doing just that.

This isn't meant to be a criticism of Trump's actions, but of his motives. We must do something in Syria, and it's high time we took out Assad's airfields. But if Trump really wanted to help the Syrian people, especially the children he saw gassed to death, he'd drop this abhorrent Muslim ban and open American borders to thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. He would, like British Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott advocated on last night's BBC

Question Time

, push for international sanctions on Russia until they stopped propping up the Assad regime. He would spearhead an international effort to remove Assad and defeat the so-called Islamic State by means of a UN resolution and military effort.

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**Load-Date:** April 7, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Justin Trudeau on Canada: We are subject to same kinds of tensions that so much of the world is facing*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MHC-BRX1-JCJY-G2DH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 17, 2016 Saturday 10:33 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 226 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

Justin Trudeau agrees Canada is a "special" place, but he is keen to remind people that it still has its own set of problems.

Images of the Canadian Prime Minister welcoming ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** immortalised Canada, in the minds of many, as a safe haven in such a volatile and increasingly dividedglobal landscape.

Mr Trudeau agrees the country has become a beacon of hope for many, but he is also encouraging a more realistic view of Canada to the world.

"I think there's a lot of people saying 'oh well, Canada is a special place,' and we are," Mr Trudeau told

The Guardian

. "But we are subject to the same kinds of tensions and forces that so much of the world is facing right now."

Mr Trudeau's policies have sat absolutely juxtaposed next to the anti-immigration, anti-refugee and anti-Muslim policies posited by Donald Trump, so much so that Canada's immigration site crashed as soon as it became clear Mr Trump's announcement as the President-elect was imminent.

But those rushing to emigrate suddenly found they may have been doing so in haste when Mr Trudeau then congratulated Mr Trump on his victory in a warm, lengthy statement.Other world leaders were more reserved in their responses, such as French President Francois Hollande, who warned Mr Trump's election marked "a period of uncertainty".

**Load-Date:** December 30, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria needs real vision, not sticking plaster solutions; The UN should profit from the temporary truce to establish safe havens if it is to stem the flow of refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JBF-5TT1-F021-647M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 19, 2016 Saturday 9:17 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1075 words

**Byline:** Michael Graydon, Gilbert Greenall

**Body**

Once again President Vladimir Putin has caught us out: by "withdrawing" from fighting in Syria he has neatly exploited the vacuum left by current US foreign policy and paralysis among the EU nations. There is a conditional ceasefire in Syria, and a tenuous deal has been reached on that country's refugees. Is this the long-awaited solution to the refugee crisis?

No it isn't. What will encourage Syrians to return home is the feeling that finally things might get better. What is on offer won't do that. Something more is needed, and the politics are not encouraging. The shooting down by Turkey of a Russian aircraft some months ago was stupid and unnecessary - a fighter intercept would have sufficed - and it made co-operation between the allies and Russia that much harder. Partial (and possibly temporary) Russian force withdrawals will not change that.

Read more

Syrians 'eating grass' in besieged cities of Daraya and Deir al-Zor

The Russians have been keener on attacking what they deem to be anti-Assad "terrorists" than on taking on Islamic State (Isis). Turkey has hardly helped, concentrating its attacks on Kurdish forces. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is taking Turkey back into civil war, damaging the important tourist industry, and creating deep uncertainty in nations looking to bring Turkey closer to the West. Will he help progress to a pluralist regime in Damascus?

Meanwhile the allied campaign, with the Iraqi forces, has been steadily chipping away at Isis, whose dreams of a country straddling Iraq and Syria and expanding outwards are crumbling. Increasingly, it is turning more to Libya, where chaos will surely continue to reign unless the coalition chooses to intervene.

Assad is more secure than before as Russian air power, unconstrained by democratic imperatives and used with a brutality and probable illegality comparable to Assad's own barrel bombing, takes effect. So for now we will have to live with a Moscow and Tehran-backed Assad.

Read more

Amal Clooney tells ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** how her family were forced to flee

Isisbeing on the retreat is, of course, welcome and means there is one less wolf around the Syrian sleigh, but it is unlikely to persuade parents that Syria has become a safe place to bring up their children. Turkey and the EU's agreement this weekend is more about domestic Turkish and German politics than about saving and securing lives. The proposals do not sit comfortably with many in Europe nor at the UN. Problems will almost certainly emerge and the deal may not survive.

The numbers of refugees who will actually be selected as legitimate is unclear: 18,000 is a figure from an existing EU plan from camps in the Middle East; how many of these would be from Turkey? And there are, it would appear, 54,000 unallocated places from a plan to redistribute refugees from Greece and Italy.

Last year, some 360,000 refugees from Syria arrived in Greece and this has shown no sign of stopping. Uncertainties abound. This morally questionable plan is supposed to persuade ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** that the door is closed to Europe and that the only route in future, for legitimate refugees, will be via Turkey. Will that really stop the economic migrants? Those on the ground know the realities they face - it is unlikely they will reach the conclusion the diplomats want.

Read more

The four reasons why Russia has withdrawn from Syria

At the end of the Bosnian civil war an interpreter was asked what she would do when it was over. She said, bluntly, that she was off to Canada, as it would take 10 years for things to settle down, and a further 10 for any real economic life to return to the country. Such are the sentiments of many refugees now fleeing shattered Syria for Europe. The death of hope is the signal to migrate, and a sticking plaster deal will not change the mind of a desperate and terrified people.

Unless we are simply to cross our fingers and hope the current ceasefire produces something enduring, what surely is required is the presence of UN forces not just observing the ceasefire but establishing safe havens for the future. Areas which are not under attack and are now being relieved with humanitarian aid could be made the safe havens which might persuade a family to stay.

A belief in a future for Syria, internationally policed, could become a real prospect. False hope given to the Kurds by Bush senior at the end of the Gulf War ended in 1.3 million people fleeing to neighbouring Iran and Turkey in 1991. However the military operation to provide "a safe haven" was remarkably successful in reversing a calamitous situation, and here Srebrenica must not be used as an excuse for doing nothing. Firm, resolute action induced mass movement back into northern Iraq within days of its deployment.

Read more

Angelina Jolie says the plight of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** is 'shameful'

The UN should seek a Security Council resolution to establish safe havens in Syria while the iron is hot. Crucially, this peace agreement will need the support of a Marshall plan for Syria to repair war-damaged infrastructure and restore normal market mechanisms quickly - housing, urban water and electricity supplies. It is in the first 100 days that peace can be won. It could be the moment for our own Department for International Development to shine; it has the expertise.

Let the Turkish refugee camps be turned into townships with facilities for a normal life: schools, clinics, business training and investment in business. Ensure, too, that the underlying and prime objective of these camps is not to provide transit for economic migrants - or indeed terrorists - but to lay the foundations for return to Syria of a properly representative population capable of rebuilding the nation.

What is on offer now is a Russian withdrawal which may not be total, a plan for refugees that is flawed and shaky, and a ceasefire which is conditional. It is most unlikely to be enough for a shattered community to believe in, but it can be built on. At the moment we have a shaming lack of political vision, a failure to look beyond mere expediency. Further and robust diplomatic action is needed to convince the people that Syria has a future - this is the only realistic prospect of halting the flow of desperate humanity. And all the military and political jostling will not change it.

Sir Michael Graydon is former chief of the air staff. Dr Gilbert Greenall is a former senior adviser to the UK government on humanitarian affairs

**Load-Date:** March 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Trump immigration ban overshadows May's Turkish press conference*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRP-W8F1-JCS0-D22M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

January 29, 2017 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 687 words

**Byline:** JOE WATTS IN ANKARA AND LIZZIE DEARDEN IN LONDON

**Body**

Theresa May has repeatedly refused to condemn Donald Trump's ban on refugees and entry for citizens of seven Muslim-majority nations during a meeting with Turkish leaders.

The prime Minister held a joint press conference with Prime Minister Binali Y?ld?r?m just a day after meeting the new President in Washington. However, their talks were overshadowed by global debate over Mr Trump's executive order to ban ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US indefinitely, halt all other asylum admissions for 120 days and suspend travel visas for citizens of "countries of particular concern", including Syria, Iraq and other Muslim-majority nations.

Faisal Islam, the political editor of Sky News, asked Ms May whether she viewed it as an "action of the leader of the free world". The Prime Minister replied that she was "very pleased" to have met Mr Trump in Washington, before evading the question by hailing Turkey's reception of millions of refugees and Britain's support for its government and other nations surrounding Syria. When pressed for a second time for her view by another British journalist, Ms May continued: "The United States is responsible for the United States' policy on refugees, the United Kingdom is responsible for the United Kingdom's policy on refugees."

Yvette Cooper, the former shadow Home Secretary, sent a letter to the Prime Minister urging her to echo condemnation from French and German ministers over the "deeply troubling" executive order. Ed Miliband, the former Labour leader, said the Prime Minister's refusal to condemn Mr Trump's Muslim ban "is shocking, wrong and cannot stand". He added: "It flies in the face of the values of people across Britain."

Mr Y?ld?r?m was more direct, calling the crisis a global issue and saying that UN members "cannot turn a blind eye to this issue and settle it by constructing walls... Nobody leaves their homes for nothing, they came here to save their lives and our doors were open???and we would do it again," he added. "If there is someone in need, you need to give them a helping hand to make sure they survive." However, he brushed aside a question about wide-ranging human rights abuses in Turkey following the summer's attempted coup, seeing thousands of people arrested or forced to leave government and military posts amid reports of torture in state prisons.

Ms May also evaded questions on her ally's alleged abuses in the press conference, but had earlier urged President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to "sustain democracy by maintaining the rule of law and upholding its international human rights obligations". She said the pair also discussed counter-terrorism, security, trade and migration in talks which stretched for an hour longer than scheduled. Turkey has seen a succession of terror attacks by both Isis and Kurdish extremist groups since the start of the Syrian civil war, which caused millions of refugees to cross its border.

The US was among the countries resettling families from designated camps but Mr Trump has suspended all refugee admissions to the US for 120 days as part of measures he claimed would "keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the US". His order additionally banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely until "significant changes" are made, and halved the annual cap on refugees to 50,000.

The President's executive order also suspends travel visas for anyone from seven predominantly Muslim countries, including Syria, Iraq, Libya and Iran, from entering the US for at least 90 days. He claimed his administration needed time to develop more stringent screening processes for refugees, immigrants and visitors.

It provoked outcry from the United Nations and NGOs working to stem the worst ever global refugee crisis, with more than 65 million people forced to flee their homes. Amnesty International warned the move could have "catastrophic consequences", saying some of the worst fears about a Trump presidency were already being realised. Salil Shetty, the group's secretary general, said: "These men, women and children are the victims of the same terror President Trump claims he wants to fight against. The irony beggars belief."

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Theresa May repeatedly refuses to condemn Donald Trump's immigration ban; 'The United States is responsible for the United States' policy on refugees,'Prime Minister says*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRK-5TB1-JCJY-G4GB-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 4:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 656 words

**Byline:** Joe Watts, Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Theresa May has repeatedlyrefused to condemn Donald Trump's ban on refugees and entry for citizens of seven Muslim-majority nations after meeting with Turkish leaders.

She was speaking just a day after meeting the new President in Washington, where the pair pledged their commitment to the "special relationship" between Britain and the US.

After agreeing a controversial £100 million fighter jet dealamid wide-ranging purges and security crackdowns following an attempted coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Ms May held a joint press conference with Prime Minister Binali Yildirim.

When May met Trump - five key points from the leaders' press conference

Their talks were overshadowed by global debate over Mr Trump's executive order to ban ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US indefinitely, halt all other asylum admissions for 120 days and suspended travel visas for citizens of "countries of particular concern", including Syria, Iraq and other Muslim-majority nations.

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Iraqi refugee targeted for helping US military detained at JFK airport

May agrees fighter jet deal with Erdogan despite human rights abuse

Most Isis victims Muslims despite Trump's plan for Christian refugees

​Faisal Islam, the political editor of

Sky News

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Ed Miliband, the former Labour leader, said the Prime Minister's refusal to condemn Mr Trump's "Muslim ban is shocking, wrong and cannot stand".

He added: "It flies in the face of the values of people across Britain."

Mr Yildirim was more direct, calling the crisis a global issue and saying that UN members "cannot turn a blind eye to this issue and settle it by constructing walls".

"Nobody leaves their homes for nothing, they came here to save their lives and our doors were open...and we would do it again," he added. "If there is someone in need, you need to give them a helping hand to make sure they survive."

The Turkish Prime Minister brushed aside a question about wide-ranging human rights abuses in Turkey following the summer's attempted coup, seeing thousands of people arrested or forced to leave government and military posts amid reports of torture in state prisons.

Mr Trump has suspended all refugee admissions to the US for 120 days as part of measures he claimed would "keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the US".

Read more

Most Isis victims Muslims despite Trump's plan for Christian refugees

His order additionally banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely until "significant changes" are made, and halved the annual cap on refugees to 50,000.

The President's executive order also suspends travel visas for anyone from seven predominantly Muslim countries, including Syria, Iraq, Libya and Iran, from entering the US for at least 90 days.

He claimed his administration needed time to develop more stringent screening processes for refugees, immigrants and visitors.

It provoked outcry from the United Nations and NGOs working to stem the worst ever global refugee crisis, with more than 65 million people forced to flee their homes.

Amnesty International warned the move could have "catastrophic consequences", saying some of the worst fears about a Trump presidency were already being realised.

Salil Shetty, the group's secretary general, said: "These men, women and children are the victims of the same terror President Trump claims he wants to fight against. The irony beggars belief."

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Theresa May repeatedly refuses to condemn Donald Trump's immigration ban; 'The United States is responsible for the United States' policy on refugees,'Prime Minister says*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRK-5TB1-JCJY-G4G9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 4:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 657 words

**Byline:** Joe Watts, Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Theresa May has repeatedlyrefused to condemn Donald Trump's ban on refugees and entry for citizens of seven Muslim-majority nations after meeting with Turkish leaders.

She was speaking just a day after meeting the new President in Washington , where the pair pledged their commitment to the "special relationship" between Britain and the US.

After agreeing a controversial £100 million fighter jet deal amid wide-ranging purges and security crackdowns following an attempted coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Ms May held a joint press conference with Prime Minister Binali Yildirim.

When May met Trump - five key points from the leaders' press conference

Their talks were overshadowed by global debate over Mr Trump's executive order to ban ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US indefinitely, halt all other asylum admissions for 120 days and suspended travel visas for citizens of "countries of particular concern", including Syria, Iraq and other Muslim-majority nations.

Read more

Iraqi refugee targeted for helping US military detained at JFK airport

May agrees fighter jet deal with Erdogan despite human rights abuse

Most Isis victims Muslims despite Trump's plan for Christian refugees

​Faisal Islam, the political editor of

Sky News

, asked Ms May whether she viewed it as an "action of the leader of the free world".

The Prime Minister replied that she was "very pleased" to have met Mr Trump in Washington, before evading the question by hailing Turkey's reception of millions of refugees and Britain's support for its government and other nations surrounding Syria.

When pressed for a second time for her view by another British journalist, Ms May continued: "The United States is responsible for the United States' policy on refugees, the United Kingdom is responsible for the United Kingdom's policy on refugees."

Ed Miliband, the former Labour leader, said the Prime Minister's refusal to condemn Mr Trump's "Muslim ban is shocking, wrong and cannot stand".

He added: "It flies in the face of the values of people across Britain."

Mr Yildirim was more direct, calling the crisis a global issue and saying that UN members "cannot turn a blind eye to this issue and settle it by constructing walls".

"Nobody leaves their homes for nothing, they came here to save their lives and our doors were open...and we would do it again," he added. "If there is someone in need, you need to give them a helping hand to make sure they survive."

The Turkish Prime Minister brushed aside a question about wide-ranging human rights abuses in Turkey following the summer's attempted coup, seeing thousands of people arrested or forced to leave government and military posts amid reports of torture in state prisons.

Mr Trump has suspended all refugee admissions to the US for 120 days as part of measures he claimed would "keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the US".

Read more

Most Isis victims Muslims despite Trump's plan for Christian refugees

His order additionally banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely until "significant changes" are made, and halved the annual cap on refugees to 50,000.

The President's executive order also suspends travel visas for anyone from seven predominantly Muslim countries, including Syria, Iraq, Libya and Iran, from entering the US for at least 90 days.

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Salil Shetty, the group's secretary general, said: "These men, women and children are the victims of the same terror President Trump claims he wants to fight against. The irony beggars belief."

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Is anyone looking for the big idea to stop children drowning?; The West's attempt to tackle the refugee issue is more about squabbling over numbers than visionary thinking*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HS1-D9C1-JCJY-G1SV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 2, 2016 Saturday 9:01 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1071 words

**Byline:** Joan Smith

**Body**

It was one of the defining images of 2015: an apparently endless column of people trudging wearily along roads in southern Europe, clutching plastic bags and suitcases. Syria is emptying out, on a scale that invokes images of Biblical migrations, and there seems to be no end to the exodus.

Like most people in Western Europe, I feel aghast and helpless in the face of human suffering on this scale. I wasn't alive during the Second World War but the parallels with the involuntary movement of people caused by the Nazis are as obvious as they are uncomfortable. In the late 1930s, the US and much of Europe closed its doors to hundreds of thousands of desperate would-be migrants who were trying to flee Hitler, refusing their requests for visas and condemning many to die in concentration camps.

Read more

France to build first refugee centre for over a decade

No one should forget that Anne Frank and her family went into hiding in 1942 because they were what would now be called "failed asylum-seekers". There was nothing inevitable about the death of Anne, who might be alive today if the world's democracies had shown more compassion towards German Jews. Three-quarters of a century later, Western governments are still failing to provide safe, legal avenues of escape for people who face murder, arrest and torture at the hands of their own governments.

In the case of Syria, there is an additional threat from the religious fanatics of Islamic State (Isis) and groups sympathetic to al-Qaeda. But the root cause of this latest refugee crisis is once again a fascist government that is prepared to commit atrocities to stay in power. Bashar al-Assad's Baath party was founded immediately after the Second World War by admirers of Hitler and Mussolini, and one of the main torture instruments in his prisons is known as the "German chair".

The heart-rending columns of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are proof of a failure to act on promises made by the international community when pictures from the Nazi death camps emerged for the first time. There is no agreement, let alone anything approaching a big idea, about how to achieve what the vast majority of Syrians actually want: the possibility of returning to their country and resuming their lives in safety. It's a failure of international governance (not a phrase you hear very often these days) on a grand scale.

So, where are the institutions which were supposed to prevent such horrors happening again? Where, to be more precise, is the UN? The scale of the international community's failure to respond effectively to humanitarian crises was underlined last week by the outgoing UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres. The Portuguese politician held the job for 10 years and pointed out that the number of displaced people had increased from 36 million to a staggering 60 million in that period. Guterres blamed this development on the international community losing much of its capacity to avoid or solve a "dramatic multiplication of conflicts" in the world.

Read more

Sweden has done so much for refugees. Now it's turned its back on them

The strongest responses to the refugee crisis

Austria refuses entry to migrants for lying about nationality

More than a million refugees entered Europe by sea in 2015

Syria's war is complicated - but the refugee crisis is not

No end in sight for terrorism or the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** fleeing to safety

That's the UN's job. But affluent countries are squabbling about who will take ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - David Cameron has offered to take a paltry 20,000 over five years - while children continue to drown in boats that aren't even seaworthy. The Prime Minister's interest in foreign affairs is too inconsistent to deserve being called a policy; he got rid of Colonel Gaddafi in Libya but sells arms to the monstrous Saudi government, which is killing civilians in Yemen and executed almost 50 of its own citizens on Saturday. Last month, RAF planes joined the US Air Force in bombing Isis's military forces and economic interests in Syria, while Russia appears to be using air strikes against the jihadists as cover to target Assad's opponents.

I doubt whether many people are even aware that the UK held the rotating presidency of the UN's most powerful body, the Security Council, in November last year. Cameron certainly didn't seize the opportunity to come up with new ideas to break the stalemate created by Russia's support for Assad. If that really is as great an obstacle as some commentators suggest - and even Vladimir Putin might be getting fed up with his onerous protégé by now - it means that the UN is simply not able to fulfil its primary role of maintaining international peace and security.

It seems unlikely that the conflict in Syria can be brought to an end without ground troops, and a UN force taking temporary control of the country under a Security Council mandate seems the best solution. The idea has been welcomed by some British MPs but why isn't Cameron, François Hollande or Barack Obama pushing for it? If the UN's structure means that a single country can prevent it from protecting civilians and intervening in conflicts as savage as Syria's, then the case for reform is unanswerable.

At the very least, the UN needs a permanent military force, ready to be deployed at short notice, instead of having to respond to crises on an ad hoc basis. In November last year, the latest month for which figures are available, its entire peacekeeping force, drawn from its member countries, amounted to little more than 106,000 police and military personnel. They have to carry out all the UN's current peacekeeping missions, and many more would be needed to deal with the different factions in Syria.

History shows that dictators are a perennial problem, causing huge suffering at home and creating refugee crises abroad. But the Syrian disaster confirms that even the leaders of democratic states, with a public commitment to universal human rights, are struggling to rise above narrow national interests. Instead of making the UN work, they're repeating the mistakes that caused so many needless deaths in the 20th century.

[*Twitter.com/@polblonde*](mailto:Twitter.com/@polblonde)

**Load-Date:** January 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*German army teaching refugees vital skills to help rebuild Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KKY-14F1-F072-43N9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

September 2, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 36

**Length:** 239 words

**Byline:** MAY BULMAN

**Body**

Germany's military has started a pilot project to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** learn civil reconstruction skills in an effort to help them find work and one day rebuild their home country. German military experts will teach 120 refugees engineering, construction, sanitation and other skills over twelve weeks.

Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen and Frank-Juergen Weise, chief of Germany's Federal Employment Agency, formerly launched the project yesterday. Ms von der Leyen said: "The goal is for these young people to get good, basic training. We don't know how long it will take until they can return, so they have to be able to make a living while they are here." She added that training was crucial for ensuring that Syria could be rebuilt in future.

She said it will take "more than just new stones" and require "people with confidence and diverse skills" to rebuild the country. The project will run at six locations and participants will receive unemployment benefits during their training.

In August 2016, a total of 346,000 people who fled their countries - including Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq - reportedly registered with the Federal Employment Agency as jobseekers in Germany. The majority of those unemployed are younger than 35, and many are said to have few or no qualifications. Of those who have found work, the majority are doing cleaning jobs, working in the warehouse and distribution industry, working as cooks or in sales.

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Priti Patel 'visited Israeli military hospital in illegally occupied Golan Heights'; Trip was not included on the minister's extraordinary list of 12 meetings held in Israel in August*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PX4-RB81-F021-647R-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

November 8, 2017 Wednesday 3:22 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS; Version:1

**Length:** 231 words

**Byline:** Rob Merrick

**Body**

Priti Patel visited an Israeli military field hospital in an illegally occupied area and failed to disclose it, it has been claimed.

The controversy surrounding the beleaguered International Development Secretary deepened with the report that she also went to the Golan Heights.

Such a visit would break the diplomatic protocol that British ministers and senior officials did not travel to areas held by Israel, in contravention of international law.

Read more

A timeline of how the Patel scandal developed

As well as the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in the Six-Day War in 1967, that list also takes in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The Israeli newspaper

Haaretz

reported that Ms Patel, during her August "holiday", visited the hospital set up to treat ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and victims of the civil war.

The Department for International Development (DiFD) did not respond to inquiries about the report.

However, no visit to the Golan Heights was included on the extraordinary list of 12 meetings Ms Patel undertook during 13 days in Israel.

The claim came as Ms Patel landed back in Britain, having been ordered back from Kenya over allegations she misled Theresa May over further secret meetings with Israeli politicians.

One was with an official from Israeli foreign ministry and the other - held on the House of Commons terrace - with the minister for public security.

**Load-Date:** November 8, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Tens of thousands demonstrate against racism in Finland after man assaulted at neo-Nazi rally dies; 28-year-old man died six days after hitting head on ground during neo-Nazi rally*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KSX-GRX1-F021-62GP-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 25, 2016 Sunday 1:53 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 225 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

Tens of thousands of people demonstrated across Finland against racism and violence under the slogan "Enough is enough" following the death of a man who was assaulted during a neo-Nazi rally.

The demonstration snaked through the capital of Helsinki as participants and spectators held green balloons and signs reading "No to Nazism".

A 28-year-old man died six days after hitting his head on the ground after he reportedly spat in front theFinnish Resistance Movement during a rally on 10 September.

Participants and spectators held green balloons and signs reading "No to Nazism" during a demonstration against racism and far right movements in downtown Helsinki, Finland, 24 September, 2016 (Reuters)

Read more

France to relocate refugees and migrants 'within weeks' in bid to close Calais Jungle camp

Denmark's High Court upholds people smuggling conviction for couple who gave ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** lift and biscuits

At least 162 bodies recovered after boat carrying hundreds of refugees sinks

A 26-year-old suspect is being held on suspicion of assault and homicide.

Neither the man nor the suspect have been identified by police.

Elsewhere in Helsinki on Saturday, an anti-immigration counter-demonstration took place under the slogan "Close borders!"

No confrontations were reported.

Last year, around 32,000 asylum seekers travelled to Finland, mostly from Iraq.

**Load-Date:** September 25, 2016

**End of Document**



[*What Muslim pilgrims travelling to Mecca can teach us about the refugee crisis; Living a frugal life on the Hajj helps us understand the plight of those who have nothing to rely on but each other*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GY5-CT31-JCJY-G40P-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 18, 2015 Friday 9:53 AM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENT

**Length:** 485 words

**Byline:** Sajda Khan

**Body**

While Europe grapples with a surge of desperate refugees fleeing conflict, persecution and poverty, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca dawns upon us again.

Hajj is no conventional journey, it is a voyage to the land of the prophets of God where the pilgrims symbolically re-enact the rites and rituals of these great prophets. Hajj is also an expedition that is deeply spiritual, with lessons that are universal and very relevant to the present. The pilgrimage is a manifestation of the solidarity and humanitarian principles that are desperately needed today as we are faced with the worst refugee crisis of the 21st century.

More on this:Isis 'has designs on' Mecca, Medina and JerusalemMecca crane collapse: Deadly accident at Grand Mosque 'a blessing in disguise for those killed'Sign The Independent's petition to welcome refugees

The simple clothing worn by every pilgrim - whether prince or pauper, black or white - demonstrates the principle of equality, because all wear the same attire. The Prophet of Islam, Muhammad said: "You do not believe until you love for others what you love for yourself" - with the "others" referring to all of humanity despite religious and cultural backgrounds.

More than a million other people, from all corners of the earth, converge for the pilgrimage - together representing a multitude of races, languages, ethnicities, and cultures. This is truly overwhelming as a human tide, so disparate in appearance and background, is totally unified in expressing solidarity in their purpose and aspiration.

It is this diversity and plurality that strengthens the bond of humanity. As Ali ibn Abi Talib, the son in law and cousin of the prophet Muhammad, once said: "Man is either your brother in faith or your brother in humanity."

Pilgrims undertaking the Hajj live a very simplistic life, travelling with few possessions, spending nights in tents, sharing what they have, just like those who have left Syria with nothing to begin their own journeys. This spirit of selflessness, and putting others first, leads to empathy and compassion - the very qualities that all Europeans need to call upon now in the search for a solution to the plight of refugees.

Refugees Welcome: Supporters back The Independent's campaign

The harrowing Syrian catastrophe should not be the responsibility of Europe alone, but the world as a whole; it needs a united response from the international community.

The body of three-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi washed ashore on a Turkish beach was heart-rending and sparked outrage. The ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** is a moral imperative for us all - and we must not flunk it.

The outcome of the Hajj is a spiritually enlightening. The journey cultivates three human virtues: humility, equality and compassion. A society based on these values will always respond to others who find themselves on their own tragic journey, and are in desperate need of sollidarity.

**Load-Date:** September 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Is this what you meant by a swarm of refugees, David Cameron?; Refugee crisis Comment*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV3-N481-F072-402P-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 3, 2015 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 8

**Length:** 459 words

**Byline:** YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

**Body**

He looks asleep, far away in dreamland, as if he dropped off after a long day of play and fun, of tricks and naughtiness. His trainers are still on his feet. Did he pester mum and dad until they bought them? His red T-shirt has rolled up to reveal his tummy. I want to touch his soft, plump tummy, to hold him, wake him gently and dry him off.

But the boy is dead. He drowned in the foaming, blue sea, just off Bodrum in Turkey, a tourist destination for Europeans seeking sun and fun. The waves delivered him to the beach, gently it seems, so intact is the little body. If this lifeless toddler were a European, the reaction across the continent would be shock and sorrow. But he is a Syrian, a pest, part of the "swarm" of refugees that David Cameron wants to keep out of Britain; a "cockroach" to Katie Hopkins, the loutish commentator.

Our Government can only talk in numbers, so too most of the media, including the BBC. Until yesterday, when Yvette Cooper finally acknowledged the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***, leading Labour figures were cowardly too, staying silent. Social psychopathy is the result.

Thousands perish as they try to get into Europe; asylum-seeking women miscarry on the streets; children are starving and traumatised; young men look trapped and emasculated. Those who have decided not to care will not be moved. (Millions do care and do what little they can, but this is a humanitarian disaster which requires a pan-European response.)

Maybe this is the moment, the image that breaks through the emotional and political fortresses. Remember that little naked, burning girl in the Vietnam War, running away from bomb attacks? That single picture turned US public opinion against that terrible war. Or the first photographs of young Malala Yousafzai after she was shot on a school bus? Until then, most Pakistanis were in denial about the Taliban in their country. After that shooting they had nowhere to hide.

Look at the picture of the washed-up toddler if you can bear to. He is a little person, an innocent, who died before he could grow. Think of the chances his parents took and why they felt they had no other choice. How frightened they must have been when they got on to the packed, unsafe boat. Did they drown too? They might have seen their child sink. Imagine that.

Details of the victim and his family are still emerging. But this is our child now, whoever we are. Even those who support hardline anti-immigration policies must feel pity and some urge to help. Our Prime Minister and Home Secretary must speak out with some compassion and take in more refugees. The boy on the beach will become a symbol either of European brutality or of its humanity. But he will never be erased from history and collective memory.

Twitter: @Y\_alibhai

**Load-Date:** September 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Suddenly everyone agrees 'something must be done.' But what?; The British government has a creditable record helping refugees in countries bordering Syria. If only that were enough...*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVM-PXG1-JCJY-G43Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 5, 2015 Saturday 9:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENTATORS

**Length:** 1010 words

**Byline:** Paul Vallely

**Body**

We lack moral imagination. It took a photograph of a dead child - in his smart red top, bright blue shorts and new lace-up shoes - to open our eyes to the reality of the biggest refugee crisis since the Second World War. The statistics had not done it. Nor had the news that 700 boat people had died in a single accident in the Mediterranean. Nor, even, had the reports that 71 migrants had suffocated in the back of a refrigerated lorry. But the image of one three-year-old lying lifeless on a beach has turned a political tide.

Suddenly everyone agrees that "something must be done". But there is little agreement on what that something might be. Different groups parade solutions to fit their different prejudices. How are we to pick a path through this moral maze?

The public focus is on how many migrants are entering Europe, what should be done with them and where they should be resettled. But if this is the pressing issue it is only a small part of the problem. There are two bigger difficulties.

The first is what can be done about the forces which are driving these people to flee their homes? Until recently the cameras of the British media have focused mainly on Calais, from where several thousand Eritrean, Sudanese and Nigerian migrants have been attempting to enter the UK illegally. But the biggest group of migrants flocking to Europe is, like the dead child Aylan al-Kurdi, from Syria. The second biggest is from Afghanistan. The harsh truth is that British policy in both Syria and Afghanistan, as in Iraq and Libya, played a part in creating the crisis and is now characterised by impotent paralysis. At this level the UK has been part of the problem and not part of the solution.

The second issue concerns how to assist those fleeing war in ways which keep them near enough to their homes to be able to return when the fighting is over. The British Government has a far more honourable record on that: it is spending as much as the rest of the European Union put together to help the four million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in neighbouring countries such as Lebanon and Jordan. Thanks to the Government honouring its pledge to allocate 7p of every £10 of national income on aid, Britain is leading the way in providing food, shelter, medicines and education in those camps.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

Even myopic opponents of aid such as the Daily Mail accept this is money well spent, and better than allowing large numbers of foreigners into the UK. But other governments are not doing their bit. The United Nations' appeal for funds has reached only a third of what is needed. Food rations for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have been cut in half in Lebanon. Other governments must donate more.

Read more: Aylan Kurdi buried by his father in KobaniBoy's father describes moment sons 'slipped away'Cameron pledges to take in more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

And yet the image of Aylan, face-down on a Turkish beach, has switched the focus from the four million in those camps to the comparatively smaller number of people already on the move. Suddenly, David Cameron was  wrong-footed. Germany is anticipating taking 800,000 refugees by the end of 2015. Sweden took 81,000 last year. Even Iceland has announced it will take 10,000. It is clearly unfair for Britain to take none.

Yet this is not just about numbers - it's also about money. The inflow of migrants has laid bare the unfairness of the Dublin Regulations which insist refugees must claim asylum in the first EU country in which they land. Frontline countries (Italy, Greece, Bulgaria and Malta) are bearing disproportionate burdens. A better system to share costs must be found - for those countries, and to support the camps in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Egypt for the millions of Syrians of whom there are no poignant photographs. All this points to the need for a more comprehensive EU-wide system.

Fixing a quota that allocates so many refugees to each EU country - which is what Germany, France and Austria want - may be a short-term answer. But refugees may not want to go to, or stay put in, poorer EU countries. How are they to be compelled? There is a need, too, to address the deep-rooted fears in Hungary (which has had 156,000 migrants so far this year), Slovakia, Bulgaria and Poland that large numbers of Muslim incomers are what the Hungarian prime minister has called a threat to "the very existence of Christian Europe".

Addressing such ingrained attitudes requires, like so much else in this exodus, a far longer-term perspective. Part of that must be an insistence from Europe's Christian leaders that such insularity is hard to square with the vision of love and inclusion set out in the Gospels.

Read more: Hungary to bus migrants to Austrian borderVolunteers join car convoy taking asylum seekers to AustriaEgyptian billionaire offers to 'buy island' to help refugees

All the great faiths suggest a different paradigm - one which gives priority to the widow, the orphan and the alien. The Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, has underscored this by refusing to make a distinction between "genuine refugees" and economic migrants. What should govern our response, he says, is the immediacy of the need of the stranger knocking at our door. His predecessor, Jonathan Sacks, was more explicit, calling on Britain to admit at least 10,000 refugees in a conspicuous echo of the Kindertransport which rescued Jewish children from Nazi Germany.

We should not be afraid of such numbers. The cold fact is that more than 500 million people live in the EU. The 350,000 migrants who have entered Europe so far this year represent less than a 10th of 1 per cent of the total population. Our continent has the means to absorb such a tiny percentage with relative ease.

But first we need to exercise our moral imagination and develop a coherent, continent-wide approach.

Paul Vallely is visiting professor in public ethics at the University of Chester

This newspaper has started a campaign for the UK to welcome a fair share of refugees.

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Syrian rock band captured by border guards play concert in Croatia; Like many other refugees, the members of Khebez Dawle arrived in Europe on a dinghy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H1R-P751-F021-61TF-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 29, 2015 Tuesday 8:09 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 1104 words

**Byline:** Danica Kirka

**Body**

The band members arrived like so many other ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, climbing out of a dinghy on the shores of the Greek island of Lesbos.

But instead of heading for a refugee camp or the ferry terminal, Khebez Dawle started chatting with the tourists basking on the beach outside the Aphrodite Hotel.

"We said hello. We were happy faces having fun. ... Usually they see scared people, sad faces, children landing," said lead singer Anas Maghrebi. "It was surreal for us and for them, and we wanted to make it more surreal so we whipped out the copies of the CDs from our bags and we started distributing the CDs on the beach."

Read more

Why the world's refugees should be given international passports

From the moment the boys in the band set foot in Europe, they have been trying to change what people think when they hear the words "***Syrian*** ***refugees***." They had another chance Wednesday night in Zagreb, where they were invited to play a gig that capped their 1,700-kilometer (1,050-mile) trek to Croatia. Hundreds came to listen.

"We have a voice. Maybe other Syrian people don't have a voice to tell their story," Maghrebi told the Associated Press before the concert. "It's our responsibility to tell our story and their story. Syrian people are civilized people. They have a heritage. It's a developed nation. Most of us are educated."

The band's story begins in Damascus in 2010 when Maghrebi, now 25, and his friends started listening to groups like like Pink Floyd while at university. They dreamed rocker dreams. They rehearsed in a basement, but never dared to ask permission to perform in public. That would have required approval from the authorities, and the police wouldn't have liked their lyrics.

"You killed me, then you blamed me because I spoke," the band sings in one of the tracks on their CD.

Then came the Arab Spring in 2011. Band members sided with demonstrators calling for more freedom of expression, and one of their members became very involved.

"He was really active," Maghrebi said. "He believed in it."

In May 2012, the drummer was found dead.

Read more

Britain still needs to do more to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, says Corbyn

Greek islanders help hundreds of refugees a day on their own

Jeremy Corbyn to pledge love for country in Labour conference speech

These are the steps Europe must take to solve the refugee crisis

Call to segregate rival groups after clashes at German asylum centres

Why the world's refugees should be given international passports

As the war closed in, the aspiring musicians feared their dreams were slipping away. They fled to Lebanon with many of their countrymen.

Most refugees aren't allowed to work in Lebanon, but the band got help from a leading local artist. They cut a record, performed in clubs.

But like many other Syrians, they realized they couldn't stay - their lives might slip away while they waited for the war to end. They sold equipment in Lebanon to earn the money for passage to Europe.

After traveling overland from Damascus to the Turkish coast, they paid a smuggler $1,200 each for a place in the inflatable dinghy that carried them 10 kilometers (six miles) to Lesbos and the European Union.

They packed clothes and CDs in their backpacks and bought two small instruments, a harmonica and a melodica, for the journey. They left the guitars behind.

They counted themselves lucky to have only 16 people in their dinghy. So many others get overcrowded with dozens of people, and sink.

In Lesbos, the indie rockers charmed the sunbathers with their music, but it was time to move on. They started walking, through Greece, Macedonia and Serbia. As tensions rose along the Serbian-Hungarian border, they decided to try an alternate route through Croatia - even though few were taking that path at the time.

They walked through vineyards in the dark, not realizing that there were still landmines in the area as a result of the war between Croatia and Serbia in the 1990s. At the border town of Ilok, they were detained by perplexed police officers who had never seen a group of Syrians before.

"We got really friendly with them," said Maghrebi as he chain-smoked. "There was a lot of interesting and intense (conversation) inside the police station about music and how it unites people. ... One of them was a rocker. He used to play drums."

Now they are in Zagreb, performing, spreading the word. Most important they are sharing the journey of their people, the hundreds who traveled alongside them.

"This journey. It's one of a kind. You may have it once in a lifetime," Maghrebi told The Associated Press before their gig. "We decided to go through what our people are going through. We're not different."

Rock fans seemed to respond to the experience, too. At the Mocvara Club gig, people came even though they had never heard of them. The Arabic lyrics were a mystery, but the anti-oppression, anti-dictatorship message was embraced by the crowd, with a bit of explanation before the songs.

Some 200 people came to offer support, particularly given Croatia's recent experience with war.

"We have a lot of empathy for refugees," said Robert Bernat, 33, who just wanted to be there out of sympathy for those suffering in the war in Syria.

The band has been overwhelmed by the generosity of people. Volunteers who had no stake in their journey have given them places to stay. The club in Zagreb lent them its drum set. And on and on.

"You learn a lot about humans, about borders. You lose your faith in papers and passports and ID cards and border and nationalities," Maghrebi said. "Your belief in humans grows stronger -way stronger."

The concept of sharing is also embedded in their name. Khebez Dawle means state bread, a reference to the subsidized bread that is a symbol of people's dependence on state power in Syria. The band took the name to show that man does not live on bread alone; that a stable government must also permit freedom of expression and social engagement.

"We are the bread that builds the government, not this loaf in our hands," Maghrebi said. "This was a big discovery actually."

Maghrebi wants to share what he's learned. He wants to live the moment, pass it on.

"Mainly, I hope we can speak for the people who have no voice in Syria," he said. "They are still there between Assad bombs ... and ISIS knives, peaceful people in the middle of an international battlefield.

"Syria is an international battlefield."

Associated Press

**Load-Date:** September 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The EU's phoney war on people smugglers is costing the lives of desperate migrants; Allowing vulnerable people to drown in the Mediterranean or asphyxiate in the holds of ships and lorries is an affront to European values*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GSW-MRS1-F021-60V2-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

August 28, 2015 Friday 3:49 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1086 words

**Byline:** Kevin Watkins

**Body**

Just how bad does the migrant crisis have to get before the European Union's political leaders start showing some leadership?

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This week's Vienna summit on migration in the Western Balkans was the latest lost opportunity. Meeting against the backdrop of 2,400 migrant deaths in the Mediterranean, the gruesome discovery of 70 decomposing migrant bodies in a lorry on an Austrian motorway, and human suffering on an epic scale across the EU's borders, the summit produced expressions of anguish, a tiny dollop of humanitarian aid, and commitments to strengthened border controls.

The EU's response to the migrant crisis has followed a gloomily predictable trajectory: while a criminally under-funded search-and-rescue operation saves lives in the Mediterranean, European governments wage a war of words against people smugglers. They ramp-up spending on fences and border-controls, and issue warnings of deportation for the 'swarms' of 'irregular' migrants seeking entry to Europe.

All of which fuels a moral panic over refugees and deflects attention from the debate that needs to happen. That debate is about forced human displacement on a scale unwitnessed since the Second World War - and about an asylum system broken beyond repair.

READ MOREThe truth about migrants Cameron doesn't want you to knowMigrant crisis: Only by working together can EU states hope to deal with refugees

The war on people smugglers is a phoney war. There is no doubting the criminality of human trafficking gangs. Yet the EU's restrictive border policies are driving up their profits.

One tragic incident helps to illustrate the real challenge facing Europe. Last April, over 500 migrants drowned off the coast of Libya when their boat collided with a container ship and capsized. The victims included nationals from Syria, Eritrea and Somalia fleeing war, persecution and human rights violations. They were among the estimated 60 million people in the world forcibly uprooted, one third of them living as refugees.

These are the real people seeking entry to a Europe they believe might offer security, safety and a chance to rebuild their lives. Data from Frontex, the EU border agency, shows that the largest groups seeking entry to the EU through the Western Balkans and Mediterranean routes are Syrians, followed by Eritreans and Afghans (many of them refugees ordered to leave Iran).

To put the figures in perspective: while countries in Europe agonise over a half-baked Commission plan to resettle 40,000 refugees and the UK media generates a moral panic over 5,000 migrants in Calais, over 4 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are living in neighbouring states. Ethiopia, one of the poorest countries in the world, is hosting over 1 million refugees from Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan.

Of course, not all migrants are refugees. The lines between poverty and forced displacement are often blurred. But the vast majority of those seeking entry to the EU come from countries where there is a reasonable presumption of legitimate asylum claims.

Europe's inept response to the refugee crisis has created a sense of fatalism. Calls for higher fences, the dismantling of the EU's free-movement provisions and forced repatriation have a populist appeal which has been exploited by xenophobes of different stripes. These are ultimately futile measures that will do nothing to tackle the displacement crisis driving migration.

There is an alternative. Compare the EU's migration summits to the response, some 40 years ago, to the boat-people crisis that followed the end of the Vietnam War.

Then as now, a major war and fear of persecution confronted an entire region with unprecedented flows of migration. By the end of 1979, more than half a million people had fled Vietnam. Overwhelmed regional governments in Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines, none of whom recognised the UN's refugee convention, adopted a policy of pushing back boats. People smugglers flourished, with human traffickers chartering steel-hulled ships that were dumped in territorial waters. Up to 200,000 people may have drowned.

In pictures: Calais crisis

International cooperation brought the crisis to an end. Securing the 1989 deal between 70 governments was not easy. Margaret Thatcher, then UK prime minister, famously opposed resettling to Britain the Vietnamese boat-people who had arrived in Hong Kong. Just like their EU counterparts today, regional governments feared being swamped by refugees. What made a resolution of the crisis possible was a multilateral approach based on shared responsibility, shared values and, in terms of brute realpolitik, recognition that there was no credible alternative.

Contrasts with today's tragedy are at once painful and instructive. Around 70 per cent of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Lebanon are now living below the poverty line. Less than half of refugee children in the region are in school - and there is a growing epidemic of child labour. Health provision is limited. Despite the urgent need for finance and constant appeals, less than one-third of UNHCR's Syria appeal is funded.

More effective aid and support for refugee hosting countries could provide hope and opportunity, partially stemming the flow of migrants heading for EU borders. Faced with abject poverty and a future that offers no prospect of security, employment or education for their children, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are doing what any EU citizens would do in their circumstances - moving to try and find a better future. The same story could be told for refugees fleeing violence and human rights abuse in South Sudan, northern Nigeria, Mali, Eritrea and Somalia.

Whatever the complexity of the legal, economic and political challenges, allowing vulnerable migrants to drown in the Mediterranean or asphyxiate in the holds of ships is an affront to European values.

The deeper challenge is to transform the EU's asylum policy. The so-called Dublin regulation, which requires point-of-entry countries to process asylum claims, is collapsing under the weight of its own irrelevance - and it needs to be replaced with a coherent alternative. More urgent still, the EU needs to dramatically increase the number of asylum claims it processes and the number of refugees it resettles.

Conducting a rhetorical war against people smugglers ticks the boxes for politicians seeking populist appeal. But the victims in that war are not the people traffickers but the people forced into their hands by the policy inertia gripping the EU's leaders.

**Load-Date:** August 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*In Canada, Harper's Conservatives seem to have forgotten a cherished tradition about refugees; Harper's been talking oddly of 'old-stock Canadians' - effectively excluding hundreds of thousands*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GYT-FG31-F021-60HD-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 20, 2015 Sunday 4:52 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1003 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

Europe's refugee epic reached as far as the frozen heights of the Rockies yesterday, in a gentle, very Canadian way. At an international economics conference in the grand old town of Banff - snow already dusting the slopes of Mount Rundle far above us - Dr Tom Thompson of Olds College, the largest agricultural school in Alberta, came up to ask me how he might bring ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to his university.

"It is our Canadian tradition, to help refugee families," he told me. "I'd love to help." I put him in touch by phone with international agricultural advisers in the Arab world, including Beirut.

READ MORE:Calls to defend national borders are stronger than calls for European solidarityNorway's PM responds to the refugee crisis

He meant what he said. Just as, on the other side of the mountains on squeaky-clean Vancouver Island, the leader of Canada's Green Party - two MPs in Ottawa, perhaps another 10 after the 19 October national elections - wants to help the Arab refugees streaming up the landmass of Europe. Elizabeth May was herself once a refugee lawyer (she used to help ship-jumpers in Halifax port) and wants Canada to shine in its response to something her country has always cherished: helping the world's poor and oppressed. Canada took in the huddled masses of Vietnamese boat people - 55,000 of them - in the 1970s. So why not the Syrians, and Iraqis, and Afghans, today?

But here, alas, we must report a sordid and bigoted tale deep within a country famous for its multiculturalism. Stephen Harper's weird Conservative government - its security laws fear-mongering their way through a population normally famous for its generosity - is even more reluctant than our own beloved David Cameron's Cabinet to take in the families fighting their way from the death-pits of the Middle East.

Harper's been talking oddly of "old-stock Canadians" - effectively excluding hundreds of thousands of Canada's new Muslim population from the country's modern history, and virtually second-tiering their citizenship. His immigration minister, Chris Alexander - desperately trying to claw back any shred of the Canadian Conservative Party's principals - has been talking these past few hours of taking in more than an earlier figure of 20,000. This was also an attempt to clean up his own reputation after scolding a television journalist and the media in general for not paying attention to the crisis - when he had himself been refusing all interviews on the subject.

Canada has made plenty of offers of help to Christian, Yazidi and other minority groups fleeing Isis territory over the past year, but precious few for the latest and far more formidable exodus, on grounds that are perfectly clear to millions of Canadians: they are Sunni Muslims.

Right-wing newspapers and ministers have tried - without any evidence - to suggest that Isis has hidden its agents among the refugees, thus presenting the suffering of these people not as a humanitarian concern but as security problem. These snide attempts to smear hundreds of thousands of people as terrorists have reached proportions which would be comical if they were not so immoral.

Harper's Defence Minister, Jason Kenney, has blathered on about meeting refugees in Middle East camps whose relatives were fighting a "jihad" against the Syrian regime - something the West has been encouraging Syrians to do for three years - and thus security must "take precedence" over receiving those fleeing the battlefields. His grotesque sympathy for the refugees makes cringing reading, for he damns them even as he claims to agree with their innocence. "I do not mean to suggest for a moment that all or most of the people in the camps are connected to terrorist organisations or contribute a security risk but it is plainly evident that some do. It would be imprudent in the extreme to pretend otherwise." Not for a moment, indeed... And note the "all or most" bit: if all or most of the refugees are not "terrorists" then presumably an awful lot are: that's the wretched man's message!

As the Toronto Star columnist Haroun Siddiqui commented, Harper's government is "pandering to the dangerous stereotype that all Muslims are potential terrorists". And not only the government. In a particularly frightening article in the right-wing National Post, Father Raymond J De Souza, a Canadian university chaplain as well as a parish priest, says that refugee camps are home to "Sunni Muslims, not a few of which look kindly towards Isil [Isis]" and that "it would be foolish to bring to Canada extremist elements that may be useful in making trouble for Assad but would also be troublesome in Canada". Individual church groups are trying to help, but somehow the good father's message seems a little different from what Christ would have said.

In graphics: Refugees in the EU

Sure, a new opinion poll suggests that 38 per cent of Canadians still believe Harper's lads and lassies would "make the best decision for Canada on the Syrian refugee situation", but at least Canada's ex-military men - usually the most flatulent of crusty old generals - have had the guts to walk a little taller than the politicians. The country's former military commander Rick Hillier is suggesting that Canada's armed forces themselves could bring in 50,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** by Christmas. Roméo Dallaire, the UN's commander in the Rwanda bloodbath, a fine man deeply troubled by what he was forced to witness in Africa, has talked of bringing up to 90,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to Canada who would be an "asset" to the country. Security is a smokescreen, he says. "I think Canada and its decision so far in regards to refugees is nothing less than atrocious and totally foreign to what and who we are."

Back in the 1970s, Canadian politicians sowed the same "security" rubbish about the Vietnamese boat people - they might be "communist" was the tag-line then, though not one turned out to be. But the Harper gang probably haven't read that far back in their country's history. Be sure that Dr Thompson has.

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Amnesty attacks UK over human rights failings*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J56-S051-F072-44V1-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

February 24, 2016 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 246 words

**Byline:** CHRIS GREEN

**Body**

The UK is setting a "dangerous precedent" to the rest of the world by undermining the human rights of its own citizens at the same time as continuing to supply arms to questionable regimes such as Saudi Arabia, according to a major report published today.

The Government's commitment to repealing the Human Rights Act, its reluctance to open the UK's borders to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and proposals for the mass surveillance of UK citizens are all criticised in Amnesty International's annual global analysis of 160 countries and territories. The Conservatives committed to replacing 1998's Human Rights Act with a British Bill of Rights ahead of last year's general election. The Government has yet to unveil the details of the changes, but the UN has described the move as "profoundly regrettable".

The Amnesty report also criticised the draft Investigatory Powers Bill - which it said could "threaten human rights" by opening the door to the mass surveillance of citizens' internet habits and phone records - and the Trade Union Bill, which it said would make it more difficult for workers to exercise their right to strike.

"The UK is setting a dangerous precedent to the world on human rights," said Amnesty International UK director Kate Allen.

Responding to the report, the Government accused Amnesty of prejudging its changes to the Human Rights Act. "It is irresponsible for any campaign group to criticise our proposals before they've seen them," said Justice Minister Dominic Raab.

**Load-Date:** February 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump still does business in Saudi Arabia, despite blaming the country for 9/11; Details of the Republican presidential candidate'sfinancial records have been released by the Federal Election Commission*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JTK-R6T1-F021-63J3-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 20, 2016 Friday 12:32 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 661 words

**Byline:** Katie Forster

**Body**

Donald Trump has blamed Saudi Arabia for the 9/11 terrorist attacks - but isstill doing business there, it has emerged.

Mr Trump, the likely Republican candidate inNovember's US presidential election, filedfinancial records to the Federal Election Commission on Wednesday, as is required of all presidential candidates.

Read more

Donald Trump says his tax rate is 'none of your business'

The Commission has released the records, which reveal details of the billionaire's income, debt and at least $1.4 billion in assets since 2015.

According to Associated Press, the financial disclosure appears to includeinformation on a new business enterprise set up to operate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

But Mr Trump has not always expressed a positive view of the Middle Eastern country.

"Who blew up the World Trade Center? It wasn't the Iraqis, it was Saudi - take a look at Saudi Arabia, open the documents," he told Fox News in February.

10 of the scariest things Donald Trump has ever said

And in March, the real estate magnatesaid he would consider stopping US oil purchases from Saudi Arabia and other Arab allies unless the Saudi government provided ground troops to fight Isis.

The 104-page document lists 527 current job titles for thebusinessman-turned-politician, who is listed asthe head of an array of companies.

Four companies were incorporated by Mr Trump which could be related to a possible hotel project in Jeddah, the second largest city in Saudi Arabia,according to Buzzfeed News.

Read more

New Jersey voters say Donald Trump will 'keep America safe'

Fox News host Bill O'Reilly says feminists should not report on Donald Trump

Saudi Arabia bill will 'open courts of justice to families of 9/11 victims'

In the disclosure, he is listed as president and owner of companies called THC Jeddah Hotel Advisor and DT Jeddah Technical Services Advisor. These are thought to be related to a possible hotel development.

Since he announced that he would be standing for president in June 2015, Mr Trump has created at least 46 new companies under his control.

However, these are often formed to hold other companies, meaning that someone else runs the business in practical terms.

The financial disclosure provides much less detail than a tax return would - but Mr Trump is the first presidential candidate to refuse to release his tax returns since 1976.

"There's nothing to learn from them," he said.

The Trump campaign claims that the tycoon's net worth is more than $10 billion, but this is difficult to verify from the document, which does not provide specific details of assets over $50 million.

The documentincludes details of assets including at least $687 million in real estate and development, from properties like Trump Tower in New York and 40 Wall Street, and at least $550 million in golf courses and resorts, according to the New York Times.

The Republican presidential candidate also picked up $800,000 in speaking fees - relatively little in comparison to his Democrat rival Hillary Clinton, who revealed she earned $1.5 million for speeches before she launched her campaign.

The report shows Mr Trump has also invested in companies he has previously criticised, such as Apple, Amazon and the parent company of Oreo.

At a rally in South Carolina, Mr Trump called for a boycott of Apple products after the company refused to hack an iPhone linked to the San Bernardino terror attack.

"First of all, Apple ought to give the security for that phone," he said. "What I think you ought to do is boycott Apple until such time as they give that security number."

Mr Trump owns Apple stock valued at between $1.1 million and $2.25 million.

In December, Mr Trump called on Saudi Arabia to take in more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, following his own demands that all Muslims should be barred from entering the USA.

He wrote on Twitter: "Has [...] Saudi Arabia, taken any of the ***Syrian*** ***refugees***? If not, why not?"

The Independent

has contacted Donald Trump's press office for comment.

**Load-Date:** May 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Paris attacks: Hunt moves to Italy as police seek suspect driving black Seat vehicle 'near Turin'; Police in Italy say they are hunting a 32-year-old man identified as Baptiste Burgy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HCY-TH31-JCJY-G201-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 16, 2015 Monday 3:50 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 243 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

Italian police are reportedly searching for a suspect from the Paris attacks driving a black Seat Ibiza in the Turin area.

France has said the shootings which killed 129 people on Friday night were planned in Syria, organised in Belgium and carried out with French assistance, and the hunt for a network of accomplices has spread across Europe.

Police in Italy have now said they are hunting a 32-year-old man identified as Baptiste Burgy, believed to be driving a car with licence plate GUT18053, local media reported.

Read more

Salah Abdeslam 'not arrested' in special forces siege on Belgian home

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** see 129 killed in Paris from perspective of war

Paris attacks may have been arranged on a PlayStation 4

Paris attacks: Europe observes minute's silence in memory of dead

That's a separate vehicle to the black Seat car found abandoned in the Paris suburb of Montreuil on Sunday morning, with AK47 rifles and spent bullet magazines inside.

And the search for Burgy was being carried out independently from the hunt for Salah Abdeslam, one of three brothers linked to the shootings who was last seen crossing the border into Belgium from France.

Abdeslam, 26, was reported to have rented a black Volkswagen Polo found outside the Bataclan concert hall, the scene of the deadliest of Friday's attacks.

**Load-Date:** November 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The real reason the British government refuses to call Isis's killings genocide; Government is reluctant to introduce the term genocide into international politics in case it is useddescribe theArmenian massacres - and offendsTurkishPresident Recep Tayyip Erdogan*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JKN-M2N1-F021-61CB-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 22, 2016 Friday 6:34 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 614 words

**Byline:** Kim Sengupta

**Body**

George Osborne announced at a parliamentary reception this week that the Government will increase its support for the Holocaust Educational Trust by £500,000. There will also be funding, he added, for a statue of Frank Foley, a British intelligence officer who had helped thousands of Jews to escape from Nazi Germany.

The Chancellor spoke of the horrors of genocide, of taking his family to see the concentration camp at Dachau last month, and praised the courage of those who had helped the refugees at a time of peril.He raised a few smiles saying that some of the money pledged "would come from fines paid by those who fixed the Libor rates - people who showed the worst of values to those who have the best of British values".

At the time Mr Osborne was speaking at event on Wednesday afternoon to commemorate the life of Major Foley, who has been described as the 'British Schindler', there was a Commons debate taking place on the motion that the mass murders of Yazidis, Christians and other minorities by Isis amounted to genocide. The Obama administration, the US Congress, the European parliament and the Council of Europe have all declared that the killing by Isis was genocide. The British government, however, was against MPs voting for the motion.

Foreign Office minister Tobias Ellwood presented - to jeers from all sides of the House - a convoluted argument. He himself personally accepted that genocide had taken place, said the minister, but the matter should be left to the courts to decide.

Read more

Angela Merkel's fawning over Erdogan will backfire

The government trotted out a line about how it has been long standing practice not to give legal definitions to war crimes. But, in reality, there is wariness about the sensibilities of the Turks who do not want the term genocide introduced too much into international politics because it may be used for the Armenian massacres. Ankara has campaigned long and hard to prevent this from happening and there is a feeling that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan must not be offended while he is being persuaded to stop ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** coming into Europe from Turkey.

It was left to Frank Foley's nephew, speaking after Mr Osborne at the Attlee Suite in Portcullis House, to point to the parliamentary TV monitor covering the debate and remind people that an ongoing genocide taking place in 2016

Mr Ellwood failed to persuade the MPs. The Commons voted unanimously to recognise that genocide had taken place, but the Government, with its stance, can disassociate itself from the decision.

Major Foley of the MI6 carried out his mission to save lives in secret without telling his superiors. From what we know, it is unlikely that he would have received the backing of the Establishment. The journalist and author Michael Smith, who had written an excellent biography of Foley, pointed out that at the time the then head of MI6 was complaining to the to the Home Secretary that there were too many Jews coming into the country and warned that they were a menace to British society and institution. The BMA, meanwhile, lobbied to limit the numbers of Jewish doctors working here.

An elderly Jewish lady described after the reception how her family had made their way to England via France. "We have family members who did not get away, some ended up in Dachau where Me Osborne had just been to. Yes, there was anti-Semitism and anti-Semitism has not totally gone away", she said."I was born in this country, our family found refuge here. But that is something so many of the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are not going to get in the West it seems in the current climate; it's a great pity."

What, we wondered, would Frank Foley have made of this?

**Load-Date:** April 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Turkish authorities detain 8 'suspected Isis militants' en route to Germany; The men are believed to beMoroccan, according to Turkey's state news agency*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HDD-91R1-JCJY-G4CM-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 18, 2015 Wednesday 7:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 252 words

**Byline:** Rose Troup Buchanan

**Body**

Eight suspected Isis extremists have allegedly been detained by Turkish authoritiesen route to Germany, Turkey's state media has claimed.

The men, who are believed to be of Moroccanorigin and have been connected by local authorities to the extremist group also known as the Islamic State, were stopped at Istanbul's Ataturk Airportfrom Casablanca on Wednesday.

Their detainment comes following multiple attacks across Parison Friday night in which 129 people died.Isis later claimed the attacks.

It appears the men told police they had arrived in the city as tourists, after they were apprehended by Istanbul Security Directorate's Counterterrorism and Intelligence Branch, according to

state media agency

Anadolu

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Read more

Turkey and US plan to drive Isis out of key Turkish border region

Paris attack: 'Mastermind' of terror atrocities killed

Female suicide bomber's exchange with police in Saint-Denis

They claimed to have booked hotel rooms, but officers reported being unable to find any reservations under the men's given names.

A document seized by authorities - and circulating online - appears to show the route the group planned to take. The Independent was unable to verify these claims.

Turkey is often one of the main transit hubs for refugees fleeing instability and violence in the Middle East and North Africa. Presently, an estimated two million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have fled to the country.

**Load-Date:** November 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Britain treating child refugees as 'somebody else's problem' say Lords; Scathing report says country is not doing enough to accept its fair share of unaccompanied children*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K9V-4831-F072-42DB-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

July 26, 2016 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 683 words

**Byline:** ASHLEY COWBURN POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**Body**

Unaccompanied child migrants living in squalid conditions across Europe should not be treated as "somebody else's problem" by the UK Government, a new parliamentary report has urged.

The cross-party intervention, which condemns the UK and EU member states for shirking their responsibility to care for unaccompanied children, comes after Theresa May faced heavy criticism for scrapping the Syrian refugee ministerial post just 10 months after it was created by her predecessor David Cameron. The report - detailing the plight of unaccompanied children on the continent - calls on the Government to take its "fair share".

Placing a particular emphasis on the missing children - now estimated to number more than 10,000 - the 113-page document, produced by the House of Lords' EU Select Committee, includes testimonies from witnesses that paint a harrowing picture of the "squalor, destitution and desperation" unaccompanied children face in the EU.

It pours scorn on EU member states for their reluctance to accept responsibility and share the burden of unaccompanied children. But the report singles out the UK for particular criticism, adding: "We deplore the continuing resistance of the UK Government to show solidarity with its European partners in helping to relocate such children."

It also criticises the "lack of burden sharing" between local authorities in the Britain - while the 32 London authorities have taken in 1,304 children, just 50 are cared for by the 16 authorities in the South West.

"We found that these children face suspicion on arrival. They are seen as 'somebody else's problem' and the conditions they live in were described to us as deplorable and squalid," said the committee chair Baroness Prashar.

"We found a clear failure among EU countries, including the UK, to shoulder their fair share of the burden. We deeply regret the UK's reluctance to relocate migrant children to the UK, in particular those living in terrible conditions in the camps near the channel ports," she added.

"It is particularly shocking that so many unaccompanied child migrants are falling out of the system altogether and going missing. How can member states, including the UK, tolerate a situation where there are more than 10,000 missing migrant children in the EU?" The wide-ranging document also categorically dismisses the Government's argument that the prospect of family reunification could encourage families to send children to Europe unaccompanied in order to act as an "anchor" for other relatives.

The report emerged as Ms May faced heavy criticism for scrapping the Syrian refugee ministerial post.

The post was quietly abandoned when Ms May shifted Richard Harrington - appointed by Mr Cameron as the first ever minister for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - to become her new pensions minister.

Conservative backbencher Heidi Allen said the move was "not a great start" for Ms May, while the Liberal Democrats claimed it showed refugees would be treated worse than they had been under Mr Cameron's Government. Owen Smith, the Labour leadership challenger, said it was "utterly disgraceful" to scrap the post "at a time when men, women and children are still drowning in the Mediterranean".

But Downing Street defended Ms May's decision to scrap the post of Syrian refugee minister. The Prime Minister's official spokeswoman said the Home Office would retain responsibility to meet the Government's promise to take in 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** by 2020.She added: "There was a role appointed to a specific MP to make sure that the commitment made previously to increase the number of refugees that we resettle got under way, got off to a good start and was delivered upon."

The report, Children in Crisis: Unaccompanied Migrant Children in the EU, recommends the establishment of an independent guardianship scheme - at both an EU and UK level - to ensure decision are taken in the best interests of migrant children.

The committee also concludes that it is vital "on moral grounds" that the UK maintains good relations with the other member states to resolve the humanitarian crisis - despite the Brexit vote.

**Load-Date:** July 25, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump still does business in Saudi Arabia, despite blaming the country for 9/11; Details of the Republican presidential candidate'sfinancial records have been released by the Federal Election Commission*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JTK-R6T1-F021-63J2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 20, 2016 Friday 12:30 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 649 words

**Byline:** Katie Forster

**Body**

Donald Trump has blamed Saudi Arabia for the 9/11 terrorist attacks - but isstill doing business there, it has emerged.

Mr Trump, the likely Republican candidate inNovember's US presidential election, filedfinancial records to the Federal Election Commission on Wednesday, as is required of all presidential candidates.

Read more

Donald Trump says his tax rate is 'none of your business'

The Commission has released the records, which reveal details of the billionaire's income, debt and at least $1.4 billion in assets since 2015.

According to Associated Press, the financial disclosure appears to includeinformation on a new business enterprise set up to operate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

But Mr Trump has not always expressed a positive view of the Middle Eastern country.

"Who blew up the World Trade Center? It wasn't the Iraqis, it was Saudi - take a look at Saudi Arabia, open the documents," he told Fox News in February.

10 of the scariest things Donald Trump has ever said

And in March, the real estate magnatesaid he would consider stopping US oil purchases from Saudi Arabia and other Arab allies unless the Saudi government provided ground troops to fight Isis.

The 104-page document lists 527 current job titles for thebusinessman-turned-politician, who is listed asthe head of an array of companies.

Four companies were incorporated by Mr Trump which could be related to a possible hotel project in Jeddah, the second largest city in Saudi Arabia,according to Buzzfeed News.

Read more

New Jersey voters say Donald Trump will 'keep America safe'

Fox News host Bill O'Reilly says feminists should not report on Donald Trump

Saudi Arabia bill will 'open courts of justice to families of 9/11 victims'

In the disclosure, he is listed as president and owner of companies called THC Jeddah Hotel Advisor and DT Jeddah Technical Services Advisor. These are thought to be related to a possible hotel development.

Since he announced that he would be standing for president in June 2015, Mr Trump has created at least 46 new companies under his control.

However, these are often formed to hold other companies, meaning that someone else runs the business in practical terms.

The financial disclosure provides much less detail than a tax return would - but Mr Trump is the first presidential candidate to refuse to release his tax returns since 1976.

"There's nothing to learn from them," he said.

The Trump campaign claims that the tycoon's net worth is more than $10 billion, but this is difficult to verify from the document, which does not provide specific details of assets over $50 million.

The documentincludes details of assets including at least $687 million in real estate and development, from properties like Trump Tower in New York and 40 Wall Street, and at least $550 million in golf courses and resorts, according to the New York Times.

The Republican presidential candidate also picked up $800,000 in speaking fees - relatively little in comparison to his Democrat rival Hillary Clinton, who revealed she earned $1.5 million for speeches before she launched her campaign.

The report shows Mr Trump has also invested in companies he has previously criticised, such as Apple, Amazon and the parent company of Oreo.

At a rally in South Carolina, Mr Trump called for a boycott of Apple products after the company refused to hack an iPhone linked to the San Bernardino terror attack.

"First of all, Apple ought to give the security for that phone," he said. "What I think you ought to do is boycott Apple until such time as they give that security number."

Mr Trump owns Apple stock valued at between $1.1 million and $2.25 million.

In December, Mr Trump called on Saudi Arabia to take in more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, following his own demands that all Muslims should be barred from entering the USA.

He wrote on Twitter: "Has [...] Saudi Arabia, taken any of the ***Syrian*** ***refugees***? If not, why not?"

**Load-Date:** May 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Fears grow over refugee safety with EU returns plan set to take effect; A UN official has said the deal to send migrants back to Turkey from Greece could be "illegal" - with protests over the agreement in both countries*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JFD-SK41-JCJY-G3BV-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 2, 2016 Saturday 10:54 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 703 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz

**Body**

Fears are growing that Greece will be unable to manage the task of sending back refugees to Turkey under the European Union's controversial migrant transfer deal which is due to be enforced from Monday.

Humanitarian aid groups have warned that the deal will be impossible for overwhelmed Greek and EU officials to implement.While atop UN official has said that the deal to send ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** back to Turkey en masse could be illegal, as Ankara is pushing them back over the border into the war zone.

"Collective deportations without having regard to the individual rights of those who claim to be refugees are illegal," Peter Sutherland, the UN Secretary General's special representative for international migration and development told the BBC. "Secondly, their rights have to be absolutely protected where they are deported to, in other words Turkey. There has to be adequate assurances they can't be sent back from Turkey to Syria."

Read more

Turkey is 'illegally forcing refugees back to Syria'

Refugee numbers rise in Italy as Turkey deadline approaches

More refugees arrive on Greek islands despite new deal with Turkey

There has also been opposition to the move from within both Greece and Turkey.In the coastal Turkish town of Dikili, hundreds demonstrated on Saturday against the prospect of hosting people expelled from the nearby Greek islands, especially Chios and Lesbos.A plan to build a reception centre for returned migrants and refugeesin Dikili is unpopular with locals.

"We definitely don't want a refugee camp in Dikili," said the town's mayor, Mustafa Tosun, according to the Associated Press.Demonstrators expressed concern over the impact the EU deal could have on the economy, tourism and security in their town.

Greece is scrambling to prepare returning the first refugees from Syria and other war torn regions back to Turkey under the terms of the deal struck on 18 March at a Turkey-EU summit in Brussels. The agreement is aimed at deterring them from using people smugglers to cross from Turkey to nearby Greek islands, a route which one million refugees have taken over the past year. Under the accord, EU countries pledged to take one screened refugee directly from Turkish soil for each Syrian refugee returned to Turkey.

Human rights group Amnesty International also believe the deal will have an adverse effect on the safety of migrants and refugees. "In their desperation to seal their borders, EU leaders have wilfully ignored the simplest of facts: Turkey is not a safe country for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***," John Dalhuisen, Amnesty's Europe and central Asia director said.

Officials are already warning that the deal face delays as they try to manage the readmission processes and build a new infrastructure for returns almost from scratch. The ongoing stream of refugees continuing to cross the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece means that there is already a huge backlog to handle. The United Nations refugee agency has said it will no longer provide assistance at the detention centers in line with its policy against mandatory detention of asylum seekers.

Greek officials say they need a 20-fold increase in personnel to handle the expected claims. They also have to decide how to handle more than 50,000 refugees stranded in the country, unable to move northwards as Greece's neighbours have closed their borders.

Nor has the EU's deal with Turkey had an effect on refugee flows: an estimated 5,000 refugees have landed on the Greek islands since the summit agreement last month. However, unrest has already spread among refugees in anticipation of the returns, with clashes breaking out between police and asylum seekers at Idomeni refugee camp, where over 11,000 people have been stranded since Balkan countries shut down their borders in late February.

In Idomeni on Saturdaymore than 200 refugees and migrants staged a protest on roadlinking Greece and Macedonia, demanding that Macedonia open its borders. The protesters blocked trucks from crossing into Macedonia, but not passenger vehicles. In a counter-protest, the lorry drivers blocked the road to other vehicles as well.

**Load-Date:** April 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Maine sheriffs visit Isis-inspired Christmas display; Concerned neighbors called local authorities and media over Christmas display featuring "ISIS" written in ruby-red lights*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HKY-H4G1-F021-6519-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 14, 2015 Monday 6:29 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 243 words

**Byline:** Massoud Hayoun

**Body**

The concerned residents of a southern Maine town alerted law enforcement and local media to what they believed was a pro-ISIS Christmas display last weekend.

York County Sheriff William King, Jr. told

The Independent

that deputies visited the home in Limerick, Maine on Saturday and found "Isis" - the acronym for the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria armed group - written out in ruby-red Christmas lights in an unidentified man'sfront yard.

"What is not so clear is that Santa Claus is 'relieving'himself on the words (see white stream)," Sheriff King told The Independent in an email including the above photograph.

"Deputies spoke with the homeowner explaining why the sheriff's office took an interest in his holiday display, and the homeownerstated he was going to rearrange the lights to clear up any doubts about his message," Sheriff King said.

He did not identify the individual behind the Isis-inspired Christmas display, but said that "no law was broken."

"We did not tell him to take the lights down or to reconfigure anything," Sheriff King said.

Read more

Canada PM welcomes ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as US Muslims warn against hate

A third of Americans want to ban Muslims, poll shows

San Bernardino shooters 'were radicalized before' online dating

Donald Trump is still surging in the latest national poll

**Load-Date:** December 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: 'Oldest refugee' claiming to be 110 years old arrives in Germany in good health; Abdul Qadir Azizi's family told German police he was born on 1 January, 1905*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H20-5JK1-JCJY-G29W-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 30, 2015 Wednesday 11:09 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 231 words

**Byline:** Doug Bolton

**Body**

A manwho claims to be 110 years old has applied for asylum in Germany after spending eight months travelling 3,000 miles from Afghanistan.

Read more

Burnham: Cameron is doing nowhere near enough to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Why the world's refugees should be given international passports

Former refugees from Vietnam reach out to help Syrians fleeing by boat

Abdul Qadir Azizi, arrived in Germany with his 60-year-old daughter and eight other family members, who had to carry him for much of the journey.

Aziz's family, when asked by German officials, said he was born on 1 January, 1905.

However, he has no papers or birth certificate to prove his claim, and police have not yet been able to verify his true age.

He is believed to be the oldest refugee to arrive in Germany, which has accepted 800,000 people this year alone.

As reported by

The Telegraph

, German federal police spokesman Werner Straubinger told journalists: "Even if the man is only 90 years old, is flight is an amazing achievement."

At the refugee reception centre in Deggendorf, near the border with Austria in the south east of Germany, police were surprised to find that although frail, deaf and blind,Mr Azizi needed no help from doctors.

The family will now move on to a refugee centre in the state of Hesse.

**Load-Date:** September 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump spent most of his campaign money on hats and t-shirts; His next biggest payment was for flights on his personal 757 jet*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H5B-J2H1-JCJY-G1YM-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 16, 2015 Friday 4:11 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 272 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

Donald Trump spent most of his campaign moneyon hats,stickers and t-shirts, according to his latest campaign finance report.

Mr Trump's campaign spent$825,000 (£534,189) on the logo-emblazoned items sold on his website and routinely thrown to supporters at his campaign events,

Reuters

reports.

The hats used in his campaign mostly feature the slogan "Make America Great Again".

His next biggest item was for flights on his personal 757 jet, on which he spent more than $700,000 (£453,323).

In typical presidential campaigns, top expenditures are usually payroll, mailings and consultations.

However, those items did not feature largely on Mr Trump's report.

Read more

Donald Trump supporter 'spits' on immigration activist at rally

Donald Trump to host Saturday Night Live again

Donald Trump says he sometimes carries a gun

Donald Trump brings campaign against windfarms to UK Supreme Court

Donald Trump will deport ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** 'because they might be Isis'

MrTrump's campaign raised nearly $4 million in the third quarter. In total, the campaign has raised $5.8 million and spent $5.6 million.

Despite proclamations that he would self-fund his candidacy, Mr Trump still raked in unsolicited donations from nearly 74,000 people, who gave an average of $50.46.

By contrast, Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton raised $30 million in the third quarter. Jeb Bush, once the Republican favorite, raised $13.4 million.

Additional reporting by Reuters.

**Load-Date:** October 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Nicky Morgan considering standing for Tory leadership when David Cameron quits; The Prime Minister has said he plans to step down before the next General Election*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H20-0YH1-JCJY-G1NS-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 30, 2015 Wednesday 10:09 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 215 words

**Byline:** Ian Johnston

**Body**

Britain's second female Prime Minister could be another Conservative, after Education Secretary Nicky Morgan said she was considering standing when David Cameron quits.

Mr Cameron has said he plans to step down before the next election, meaning his replacement would be Prime Minister for perhaps a year before the 2020 vote. In an interview with the

Spectator

magazine, Ms Morgan said: "I hope that, in the not-too-distant future, there will be another female leader of a main Westminster political party."

She said she represented "a part of the country that I think is incredibly down-to-earth".

Read more

Cameron has been left behind by the pace of events in Syria

Burnham: Cameron is doing nowhere near enough to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

"It wants good schools, good hospitals, solid economy, support for those who have started businesses and wants to know that the government is on their side," she said.

However, Ms Morgan, who has a seven-year-old son, said a major factor in her decision on whether to stand would be the effect on her family life.

"I'd be saying this if I was male or female - in the sense that being leader of the party is so all-consuming, putting such a pressure on family relationships," she said.

**Load-Date:** September 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Archbishop of Canterbury offers Syrians sanctuary at Lambeth Palace; His gesture follows a similar move by the Catholic church after Pope Francis said two refugee families would move into Vatican housing*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H01-8CP1-F021-6313-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 21, 2015 Monday 3:04 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 224 words

**Byline:** Dominic Harris

**Body**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has promised to offer sanctuary for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** at Lambeth Palace.

Justin Welby will welcome people fleeing the war-ravaged country in a four-bedroom cottage at the palace, his official London residence.

His gesture follows a similar move by the Catholic church after Pope Francis said two refugee families would move into Vatican housing, but Lambeth Palace said it was something the archbishop has been considering for "a while".

The refugee crisis - in pictures

A spokeswoman said the cottage in the palace grounds is currently being redecorated and could provide room for a "family or two".

She said: "As a Christian who leads the Church of England it is something he feels absolutely passionate about.

Read more: Hungary: Croatia 'violating international law'Croatian PM: 'We cannot accommodate these people any longer'Hungary opens fire on refugees with tear gasCroatia has closed seven of eight border crossings with Serbia

"As the archbishop has said, Jesus was a refugee, and there are refugees here who are desperate for sanctuary from war-torn places and the archbishop is completely torn about their situation and wants to make a difference."

The rent for the refugees will be paid for by charitable funds under the archbishop's personal control, the Sunday Times said.

PA

**Load-Date:** September 21, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump would 'love to help' with the refugee crisis, but says US has its own problems; The business magnate appeared to contradict comments he made in a separate interview*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWN-XJ41-F021-62T2-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 10, 2015 Thursday 5:45 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 209 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

The refugee crisis has moved the public and politicians globally, with leaders in Britain, Germany and other countries vowing to accept a quota of those fleeing death and persecution.

But Donald Trump seemed less moved by the plight of thousands of families when asked if he would consider accepting any into the US by Fox News host Sean Hannity.

"From a humanitarian standpoint, I'd love to help, but we have our own problems," he told Hannity. "We have so many problems that we have to solve.

Donald Trump in quotes

"You have the Gulf States, tremendously wealthy, five groups of people, six groups - they'r not taking anybody. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain - these are tremendously wealthy - they're not taking anybody!

"Russia's not taking, nobody's taking. We're supposed to take? We have to straighten out our own problems. If Obama would have gone across the line that he drew, the artificial line in the sand that he drew, you wouldn't have this problem in the first place."

His comments appeared to contradict the more welcoming stance he demonstrated when appearing the O'Reilly Factor on Tuesday night, where he said the US should take in ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Watch the full exchange below.

Read more: Donald Trump says US should accept refugees from Syria

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Jeremy Corbyn's first PMQs - as it happened; David Cameron was interrogated with six questions from voters*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXX-K8J1-JCJY-G2RC-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 16, 2015 Wednesday 6:07 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 220 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

· Corbyn began 'new PMQs' with question from 'Marie'

· She says Labour leader 'changed PMQs for better'

· More than 1,000 ask Corbyn to bring up mental health

· Corbyn rejects national anthem criticism as 'tittle-tattle'

· ... and Corbyn says he will sing anthem in future

· Petition calls for BBC parity for Corbyn with PM

· Analysis: The one big problem with the 'new PMQ's

Please allow a moment for the liveblog to load

Today's session in the Commons was one of the most hotly-anticipated for years, after the new Labour chief promised to pose questions crowdsourced from party supporters.

It came in the wake of Mr Corbyn's first major speech as leader at the TUC conference, where he challenged Mr Cameron and George Osborne for trying to "socially cleanse" Britain.

Welfare was expected to be one of the key themes at the PMQs debate. Mr Corbyn said on Tuesday that while the Tories say Labour are "deficit deniers", "what they are is poverty deniers".

Mr Cameron has just returned from a whistle-stop tour of Lebanon and Jordan, where he wanted to "see for himself the needs of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***". The growing plight of those fleeing conflict for safety in Europe was the key theme from last week's PMQs - Harriet Harman's last - and was expected to feature prominently again on Wednesday.

**Load-Date:** September 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Lord Sugar: Katie Hopkins is Piers Morgan on steroids; 'Her niche is to be obnoxious and controversial and it's a shtick. She's just trying to make herself famous.'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H2J-3B31-JCJY-G283-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 3, 2015 Saturday 10:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 203 words

**Byline:** Joe Nerssessian

**Body**

Lord Sugar has compared former Apprentice contestant Katie Hopkins to "Piers Morgan on steroids".

Hopkins, 44, who appeared in the 2007 series of the BBC show and now has her own TV show, has been criticised for remarks she made about ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** escaping conflict.

Lord Sugar, 68, said in an interview with The Times Magazine that Hopkins uses controversial comments "to make herself famous".

Earlier this year Hopkins compared migrants to cockroaches in her column, and has previously demanded that fat people pay extra tax. However when discussing her TV show - 'If Katie Hopkins Ruled the World' - she has claimed she isn't trying to play a pantomime villain.

But Lord Sugar said: "Her niche is to be obnoxious and controversial and it's a shtick. She's just trying to make herself famous. She's chosen a niche in the market for herself. She's become Piers Morgan on steroids, if there could be such a thing."

Lord Sugar also said it was hard to work out a contestant's personality when choosing them for the BBC show, which returns for its 11th series later this month.

He said: "You don't know what the real characters are like until you get into the Apprentice process and I think we're a bit more streetwise now."

**Load-Date:** October 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: EU pledges (EURO)700m in extra aid to cope with influx from Syria and Iraq; Emergency fund will help Greece and other Balkan nations to cope as UN agency warns of growing humanitarian crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J6T-P761-F021-63GY-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 2, 2016 Wednesday 9:21 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 655 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz

**Body**

A (EURO)700m (£542m) emergency aid package to help Greece and other countries to cope with the influx of refugees from Syria and Iraq has been unveiled by the European Commission.

The announcement came as tensions continued to rise, with the European Council's president, Donald Tusk, warning that the refugee crisis was testing the EU "to the limits".

Read more

Britain is not taking enough ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, Peter Mandelson says

The EU aid will pay for basic necessities such as food, shelter, clean water and healthcare until the end of 2018, with (EURO)300m available this year. Although all EU member states can ask for a share of the fund, it is expected to be channelled to Greece, where most refugees are landing by boat, as well as the Balkan countries through which they travel on their way to western Europe.

The United Nations' refugee agency said more than 27,000 refugees were in need of permanent shelter in Greece, and 2,000 a day were arriving there from Turkey.

The EU's humanitarian aid commissioner, Christos Stylianides, admitted that the money was only a partial response to the crisis, which has seen more than one million refugees stream into Europe in the past year.

Read more

Refugees break through Macedonia fence with home made battering ram

"There are no magical solutions," he said, adding that he anticipated further waves of migration. "In the future, the EU may be faced with other kinds of disasters." The funding will take a large chunk out of the EU aid budget of (EURO)1.3bn a year. Officials said that although the aid was normally used for emergencies outside Europe, it could be used internally if member states found that their own response capacities were overwhelmed.

More and more EU countries have re-imposed border controls to stop refugees passing through. Mr Tusk admitted that the pressure was piling up, especially in the EU's border-free Schengen zone.

"It is a crisis that is testing our union to the limits," he said, after meeting the Croatian Prime Minister, Tihomir Oreskovic, in Zagreb. "We have to avoid an illusion that, instead of the full respect for Schengen rules, there might be another, easy and convenient European solution."

Read more

Concern at 'unprecedented' refugee numbers as 2016 arrivals pass 100k

Mr Tusk, who also visited Slovenia and Macedonia, will pass by Athens on Thursday before heading to Ankara to meet Turkey's Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu. He will hold talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul on Friday, as he lays the groundwork for a special EU summit on refugees in Brussels on Monday,

With migrant numbers expected to rise in the warmer spring and summer months, Austria and other central European nations are already closing their southern borders, effectively ringfencing Greece. EU officials have voiced concerns that the newly built frontiers and temporary border checks could eventually become permanent.

It is hoped that Monday's talks will produce an effective EU migration strategy. Mr Davutoglu will also attend the summit, which aims to firm up November's (EURO)3bn deal with Turkey to tackle people smugglers and improve conditions for the two million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** currently living in Turkish camps.

Read more

EU row over refugee crisis 'threatens its very survival'

There were auspicious signs when Turkey's foreign ministry announced re-admission agreements with 14 countries, meaning it will take back asylum-seekers whose claims have been rejected.

The EC confirmed that 308 north African migrants would be sent from Greece to Turkey as it stepped up efforts to return those with invalid claims.

Meanwhile, the investment bank Morgan Stanley said the EU could see (EURO)28bn wiped off the value of its economies - 0.2 per cent of GDP - if the Schengen system of open borders collapsed.

Analysts said that would lead to a 5 per cent surge in the cost of cross-border travel, and a 20 per cent fall in trade flows between countries.

**Load-Date:** March 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria air strikes: Government resists calls to house more refugees after starting bombing campaign; Humanitarian organisations said the current quota was not enough when the UK is now adding to the destruction in Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHS-SVN1-JCJY-G1W3-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 4, 2015 Friday 11:56 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 682 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The Government is resisting calls to house more refugees in the UK after MPs voted to join bombing in Syria, potentially driving even more civilians from their homes.

The International Rescue Committee UK (IRC), which works with asylum seekers reaching Europe's shores, was among the groups calling for Britain to accept more responsibility for the humanitarian crisis it is now actively involved in.

Melanie Ward, associate director at the IRC, told

The Independent

's sister website i100.co.uk that an upsurge in air strikes in Syria "inevitably risks" an increase in people fleeing the conflict.

UK air strikes begin in Syria

"It cannot be argued that accepting 4,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** per year - or around six per parliamentary constituency - is our fair share of the millions who have fled Syria - this is more the case now than ever before," she said.

"The Government should urgently revise the numbers upwards, including by welcoming a significant number of the refugees whose desperation has seen them reach Europe's shores already."

Read more

Britons twice as hostile as French to refugees after Paris attacks

But Richard Harrington, the Conservative minister for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, said the Government's position has not changed since Wednesday's vote for intervention.

"The UK has been at the forefront of the international response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria and we are providing more than £1.1 billion in humanitarian aid," he told

The Independent.

Read more

Rebels and Damascus condemn first British air strikes in Syria

MoD stresses need to protect civilians as RAF targets Isis oil revenue

A running list of the British air strikes against Isis in Syria

"We have also taken in almost 5,000 refugees and asylum seekers since 2011 and we are expanding the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme to resettle a further 20,000 people by the end of this Parliament.

"We are working closely with UNHCR to identify and resettle those in the region who are the most vulnerable. This also deters people from attempting these perilous journeys which have already led to so many tragic deaths."

Refugees look out the window as they leave Glasgow Airport on buses after the first of a series of charter flights carrying refugees arrived on November 17, 2015 in Glasgow, Scotland

The House of Commons debated accepting more refugees in September after the death of Aylan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian boy who drowned alongside his brother and mother attempting to reach Greece.

Calls had mounted through the summer for asylum seekers to be given safe passage to Europe and homes on the continent following a series of disasters in the Mediterranean and Aegean.

A petition on the Government website calling for the UK to offer "proportional asylum" compared to Germany and other allies reached almost 445,000 signatures, while this newspapers Refugees Welcome campaign drew support from a further 387,000 people.

But political and public will to address the continuing crisis has waned following the Paris attacks, when it emerged that at least two of the Isis militants who massacred 130 people may have used the refugee route through Greece to enter Europe.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, was among those appealing to governments not to blame asylum seekers for the atrocity as several nations moved to backtrack on housing the thousands of people arriving in Europe.

He said that the fake Syrian passport in the name of Ahmad Al-Mohammad was "left to be seen" by a suicide bomber at the Stade de France as part of an Isis strategy to "put the refugees in the spotlight".

"It is not the refugee outflows that cause terrorism, it is terrorism, tyranny and war that create refugees," Mr Guterres added.

"It is clear that the Daesh (Isis) strategy is not only to set Europeans against refugees, but within Europe, to set citizen against citizen within communities, community against community within countries, and country against country in the Union."

**Load-Date:** December 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Turkey challenged over claim it hosts 2.7 million refugees from Syria; Aid workers say closure of large sections of the border means true figure likely to be much lower. By LAURA PITEL in Istanbul*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J8M-8WW1-F072-4195-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

March 11, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 24

**Length:** 675 words

**Byline:** LAURA PITEL

**Body**

Turkey may be hosting far fewer than the 2.7 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** declared in official figures, according to a controversial new claim.

An article in an online magazine by an aid worker and a former aid worker argues that many of those registered as living in Turkey may already have left for Europe, while others may have been registered several times. The claim comes as European leaders prepare to thrash out the final details of a deal with Turkey designed to prevent a repeat of the influx of people who arrived in Europe last year.

Ankara drove a hard bargain at an emergency summit in Brussels this week. In return for agreeing to allow all refugees and migrants arriving in EU countries to be sent back to Turkey, the nation's Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, asked EU leaders to double a package of aid for Syrians in his country to Euro 6bn (£4.7bn).

Questions about the actual numbers were raised in an article published on The Balkanist website under the headline "Turkey's mysterious disappearing refugees".

Written by an aid official based in southern Turkey, who works for an unnamed organisation, and a former humanitarian worker, it cites figures showing that 880,000 people arrived in Greece last year after crossing by sea from Turkey. In the same period, the number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** reported as living in Turkey rose from 1.5 million to 2.5 million. The current total claimed by Ankara stands at 2.7 million.

For that increase to be accurate, the authors say, 80,000 refugees must have crossed into Turkey from Syria every month last year, excluding anyone who went straight to Europe. However, from about March last year it has become much harder for Syrians to cross into Turkey, as large sections of the border have been closed.

The article notes that the numbers of Syrians living in official government camps rose slightly in 2015 from 230,000 to 270,000.

The authors warn that the official Turkish figures are "being accepted uncritically by aid groups and government officials" when they should be treated with more caution - especially when they form the basis of frantic EU negotiations.

A senior Turkish official did not deny that the figure for Syrians in Turkey could be too high, but said that it was "difficult to tell".

He told The Independent: "We don't know if 100 per cent of Syrians currently in Turkey are registered, even though the authorities have been trying very hard to register everyone. At the same time it is unclear how many people left - how many people drowned, or ended up in Europe." He suggested that the numbers in Europe could also be inaccurate because people who travelled to Germany or Sweden crossed many national borders and were re-registered and reported every time they did so.

All those arriving in Greece from Turkey are supposed to be registered, raising the prospect that they could, in theory, be crossed off against the list of names of refugees in Turkey. Frontex, the EU border agency, has sent hundreds of officers, seconded from police forces across Europe, to help the Greek authorities record all new arrivals.

However, a spokesman for the agency said that information about individuals was passed only to the Greek authorities and could not be shared more widely because of data protection laws.

The numbers crossing the Aegean Sea have shown few signs of declining. More than 130,000 people have reached Europe from Turkey this year alone. Yesterday, two children and a six-month-old baby were among five Afghans who drowned trying to reach the Greek island of Lesbos.

Meanwhile, a group of 30 aid agencies has warned that the fifth year of the Syrian conflict was the worst so far, with civilians suffering from intensified violence, aid blockades and siege warfare. The charities, which include Oxfam, say that at least 50,000 people were killed over the past year.

They criticise Russia, the United States, France and Britain for undermining their own resolutions through "inadequate diplomatic pressure, political and military support to their allies or direct military action".

**Load-Date:** March 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*'Syrian Boys' Juman al-Najem and his brother Limar record single calling for peace in their homeland; 'We are doing this single, 'Peace in the World', to end the violence in Syria and the whole world'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HTK-GGC1-F021-63BP-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 9, 2016 Saturday 11:00 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 633 words

**Byline:** DONNA BOWATER, Priscilla Moraes

**Body**

From its star footballer Neymar to the popular country singer Gusttavo Lima, Brazil has fallen for two young Syrian brothers who have launched a pop career three years after fleeing their war-torn homeland.

Juman al-Najem, 10, and his seven-year-old brother Limar have become the poster children for Brazil's open-door policy, which has offered humanitarian visas to 2,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** since 2013 - more than any other country in Latin America - and now they plan to record a single calling for peace in Syria.

Read more

Pact aims to help Syrians on both sides dying from hunger

The pair, known in English as the "Syrian Boys", arrived in the capital, Brasilia, from the southern Syrian city of Sweida with their parents, having lost a cousin in the war, and said they feared they would also have died if they had stayed.

Under the direction of a Brazilian producer, the brothers started singing lessons and have recorded music in Portuguese and Arabic. They have previously appeared on prime-time TV, and received a message from Brazilian football international Neymar saying that he hoped they "find peace" in Brazil. Now they plan to record the single - alongside top Brazilian pop stars - in the hope it will help publicise the plight of those still in Syria as the civil war in the country continues.

"We are doing this single, 'Peace in the World', to end the violence in Syria and the whole world," said Juman, adding that the idea was inspired by Michael Jackson's "We Are the World".

His brother Limar added: "People will listen and tell others to stop making war. A lot of people are dying, innocent children dead on the street."

Limar said he was under no illusion that getting to Brazil saved the lives of his family. "[In Syria] there are guns everywhere, killing people and children ... If we were still there, we think we would no longer be alive."

The brothers recently received a surprise visit from their idol, Gusttavo Lima, for the popular magazine TV show Fantastico. They said Lima's style of music, known in Brazil as sertanejo or country music, existed in Syria as well. "We really like Syrian music," said Limar. "There's pop, funk, a kind of country music." Lima is on the list of artists the boys wish to collaborate with on the new single, although the final line-up has not yet been confirmed.

Yet as the boys' public profile grows, the plight of many other ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Brazil continues. While the country has won plaudits for accepting refugees, particularly as many countries in Europe dither over taking them, the paperwork is just the beginning.

Support is limited, and while refugees have the right to work, finding a job or a home remains difficult. Campaigners have suggested that along with giving refugees legal status, Brazil should also be looking at offering more support for those with specific needs, such as women at risk and survivors of violence.

Read more

Right-wing columnist told 'new Jihadi John' suspect to join Isis

Syrian regime supporters share food photos to taunt starving civilians

Artworks by Syrian refugee children

"As well as open doors, Brazil also needs robust policies of integration and acceptance in society," said Camila Asano, foreign policy co-ordinator at Conectas, a human rights NGO based in São Paulo.

For the Syrian Boys and their family, though, Brazil has offered not only refuge, but also a future.

"We miss friends and family a lot, but Brazil is really, really good," said the boys' father Riad. "Here in Brazil, people are our family. I think it's great the boys are singing and it's nice when people talk of us.

"When we have money, we will help people there in Syria and here - those who are needy," he said.

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Six children among 13 dead after ferry hits inflatable dinghy; Another 13 missing after boat carrying refugees collides with cargo ship in Turkish waters*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GYT-FG31-F021-60MW-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 20, 2015 Sunday 5:34 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 223 words

**Byline:** David Trayner

**Body**

Thirteen refugees, including six children, have died after their inflatable dinghy collided with a cargo ship.

A Turkish coastguard source told Reuters a boat carrying 46 refugees towards the Greek island of Lesbos capsized on Sunday after the crash.

The coastguard managed to rescue 20 people, seven of whom are now receiving treatment, but another 13 are missing.

A Greek coastguard spokeswoman said: "They (the migrants) told rescuers there were 46 people in the inflatable dinghy in total."

Rescues and sinkings occur almost daily in the often choppy seas off Greece's eastern islands.

READ MORE:Refugee crisis was caused by a careless West that allowed anarchy and fear to take root in the Middle EastRefugee Crisis: At the border of Austria and Slovenia there's a rare happy endingUS says Assad must go, calling on Russia and Iran to use their influence

Tens of thousands of mainly ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have braved the short crossing from Turkey this year, mainly in flimsy and overcrowded inflatable boats.

A girl believed to be aged five died on Saturday and 13 others were feared drowned after their boat sank off the same island, a favoured entry point on a route that takes the migrants through the Balkans towards northern Europe.

Fifteen children were among 34 who died a week ago when their boat capsized off the small island of Farmakonisi.

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*UN refugee chief attacks Donald Trump: People who reject Syria Muslims are 'best allies' of Isis; 'We must not forget that - despite the rhetoric we are hearing these days -refugees are the first victims of such terror, not its source,' saysAntonio Guterres*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HNM-8331-JCJY-G4TW-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 22, 2015 Tuesday 1:30 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 646 words

**Byline:** Amelia Jenne

**Body**

The head of the United Nations' refugee agency has issueda thinly veiled attack on Donald Trump by branding those who reject Muslims fleeing war-torn countries as the "best allies" of extremist groups like Isis.

Addressing the crisis surrounding the 4.3 million Syrians who have fled the country's five-year civil war, UNHCR chief Antonio Guterres' comments come after the Republican said he would impose a blanket ban on Muslims entering the United States if he were elected president.

"Those that reject Syrianrefugees, and especially if they are Muslim, are the best allies of the propaganda and the recruitment of extremist groups," Mr Guterres said.

Read more

How a London teenager was inspired to raise $100,000 for refugees

Malala warns Donald Trump's call to ban Muslims will radicalise more

Hillary Clinton: Donald Trump is becoming Isis' best recruiter

Isis has captured huge swathes of Syria and neighbouring Iraq. The group claimed responsibility for the co-ordinated terror attacks on Paris on 13 November and said the married couple who carried out a mass shooting in San Bernadino, Southern California, on 2 December were its followers.

Those killings prompted warnings from politicians that the US and Europe could be at an increased risk of terrorism if refugees are not vetted to root out potential extremists.

But Trump was condemned across the political spectrum both at home and abroad when he told a rally in Iowa that he would ban Muslims from entering the country "until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on".

And while he did not mention the outspoken Republican by name,Mr Guterres said: "We must not forget that - despite the rhetoric we are hearing these days -refugees are the first victims of such terror, not its source.

"They cannot be blamed for a threat which they're risking their lives to escape.

"Yes, of course there is a possibility that terrorists could try to infiltrate refugeemovements.

"But this possibility exists for all communities - and homegrown radicalisation is by far the biggest threat, as all recent incidents have shown."

He added that a UN survey of 1,200 Syrians who had fled to Europe found 86 per cent of them had a secondary school education and almost half had gone to university.

During a televised debate last Saturday, would-be Democrat presidential candidate Hillary Clinton claimed Isis was "going to people showing videos of Donald Trump insulting Islam and Muslims in order to recruit more radical jihadists".

Site Intelligence Group, a social media monitoring organisation, said radical jihadists were sharing his comments on social media as an example of "Westernoppressionagainst Muslims".

Following the Paris terror attacks, four US states said they would close their doors to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to suspend President Obama's refugee program that would admit 10,000 people fleeing the country.

Trump's fellow Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson said admitting ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** would be putting Americans at risk and likened them to "a rabid dog running around your neighbourhood".

At least one of the Paris attackers had entered Europe through the Balkans posing as a Syrian refugee, but Mr Guterres said the fake Syrian passport found near the body of one of the Stade de France suicide bombers was a deliberate tactic on the part of Isis to "put refugees in the spotlight" and pitch European countries against them.

He had previously insisted military action and border closures could not eradicate the terrorism risk.

"An essential part of this is to convince the potential recruits of terrorist organisations that that is not the way to express their own anger or their own concerns or their own perspectives," he said.

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Alan Kurdi: Relatives of drowned Syrian toddler receive warm welcome in Canada; The three-year-old's relatives say they are determined his death not be in vain*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HPY-JS21-F021-602M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 28, 2015 Monday 9:47 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 641 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

Four months after images of his lifeless body on a Turkish beach sparked outrage around the world, Alan Kurdi's relatives have arrived in Canada, ready to start a new life and determined the child's death not be in vain.

The three-year-old's uncle, Mohammed Kurdi, his wife, and their five children arrived at the airport in Vancouver. They landed shortly before noon where they are being greeted by his sister, Tima Kurdi, a Canadian who is sponsoring the family.

Also on hand to welcome the family were schoolchildren holding signs that read 'Welcome to Canada'.

'Tell the people of Canada thank you': Alan Kurdi's father [*https://t.co/kYVUk49Tb7*](https://t.co/kYVUk49Tb7)

- Global BC (@GlobalBC) December 28, 2015

Tima Kurdi told

CTV

news

channel that while the tragedy involving her nephew has been painful for the entire family, she hoped it served as a reminder to the world of the plight of refugees fleeing violence.

"Even though the tragedy was very painful for us, it's opened the doors for others - that's what counts," she said. "I hope his death won't be in vain."

The three-year-old boy drowned in September along with his older brother and their mother while attempting to cross the waters between Turkey and Greece.

Images of his lifeless body, face-down in the sand, sparked outcry and led millions around the world to demand countries provide a safe haven for refugees fleeing violence, such as that generated by the four-year Syrian civil war.

Tima Kurdi, a Canadian who is sponsoring the family, released balloons in memory of those who died

Alan Kurdi's father, Abdullah Kurdi, said he had attempted the dangerous water crossing after the Canadian government rejected his brother Mohammed's original refugee application. Canadian officials said the application did not have the required documentation.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada later asked Tima Kurdi to re-apply for her brother and his family in mid-October.

Ms Kurdi told the

BBC

she was unable to look at the photograph of the child that generated such outcry. She said, however, that she understood the power of the image and its impact on pressuring politicians to act.

Hundreds of asylum seekers have died this year trying to reach Europe by sea. Greece and Turkey have become a major transit points.

The admittance of refugees from war-torn nations including Syria has become highly contentious in governments around the world, with leaders attempting to balance security and humanitarian concerns.

The relatives of the toddler received a war welcome at Vancouver Airport

In Canada, the newly-elected Liberal government led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau campaigned on the promise to resettle 25,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** by the end of February.

The government, which came to power in early November, said that 10,000 of the refugees would arrive by the end of the year.

Last week, the government said the country's resettlement programme would be expanded in 2016 to take 50,000.

In the US, more than 30 states have vowed to block any efforts by the government of Barack Obama to settle the 10,000 refugees he has said he will welcome.

Tima Kurdi said the entire family of seven will join her family of three in their Vancouver home, CTV News reported.

Read more

Syria's war is complicated - but the refugee crisis is not

Humans of New York raises $700,000 for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in three days

Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher 'donate £670,000 to Syrian children'

"We have enough room, and I did my best, me and my husband and my son. We made it nice and comfy," she said.

Her other brother and Alan Kurdi's father, Abdullah Kurdi, declined to come to Canada and now lives in Kurdistan.

Ms Kurdi said that after losing his wife and children, Alan's father had devoted his life to helping other refugees.

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The Statue of Liberty was originally conceived to be Muslim; America' symbol of freedom and charity was originally designed to be an Egyptian peasant woman*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HDK-CDT1-JCJY-G427-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 19, 2015 Thursday 2:21 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 664 words

**Byline:** Yanan Wang

**Body**

Current debates over the resettlement of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have prompted repeated invocations of the words on the Statue of Liberty:

"Give me your tired, your poor/ Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

The lines, written by poet Emma Lazarus in the late 1880s, were inspired by the hardships endured by Jewish refugees who arrived in New York after fleeing eastern Europe's pogroms. They're made even more relevant to the present moment, however, when considering the origins of the Lady Liberty statue.

Read more

Google doodle celebrates 130th anniversary of Statue of Liberty's

The first draft for what would become the nation's symbol of welcome to the "huddled masses" was conceived by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi not for the Statue of Liberty but for an entirely different project: a lighthouse that would stand at the entrance to the Suez Canal.

According tohistorian Michael B. Oren, in his book"Power, Faith, and Fantasy,"Bartholdi would carve the likeness of an Egyptian peasant woman holding aloft a torch of freedom. The monument, twice as high as the Sphinx, would guard the waterway's entrance and perhaps double as a lighthouse. Its name would be

Egypt (or Progress) Bringing Light to Asia

."

Thus, as the Daily Beast's Michael Dalypointed outon Wednesday, the nation's symbol of all-American freedom and charity was in fact originally conceived as an Egyptian - and by default in those times, a Muslim.

For the next two years, Bartholdi worked on sketches and tried to persuade Isma'il Pasha, the then-Khedive (Viceroy) of Egypt, to finance his project. But the viceroy was bankrupt by 1871 and in no condition to support a monument as large as two sphinxes.

This compelled a "distraught" Bartholdi to take solace in a cruise to America. As he sailed into New York harbor, he saw the "egg-shaped" Bedloe's Island and started considering a new location for his majestic vision, imbued with new meaning.

Not long before, Bartholdi had had a conversation with the French abolitionist and fervent supporter of the the North in the Civil War, Édouard René de Laboulaye, who proposed that France offerthe United States a gift in recognition of the end of that conflict. After years of negotiation, it was decided that America would pay for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal and France for the statue itself.

The dedication of the completed monument took place in October 1886. Oren describes the occasion in the following way:

"The thousands of spectators who listened as President Grover Cleveland pledged 'not [to] forget that liberty here made her home' gazed up at a creation that bore little resemblance to the one Bartholdi had visualized for Egypt. The Muslim peasant had been replaced by an idealized Western woman and the name of the piece changed from

Bringing Light to Asia

to

Liberty Enlightening the World

.Only the torch remained, unextinguished.

Read more

Council censors veiled Statue of Liberty

Statue of Liberty to be scanned in case of terror attack

Revealed: Blake's vision of a British statue of liberty

Over the next forty years, 'Lady Liberty' would provide millions of immigrants with their first glimpse of America, kindling their hopes for better lives and beckoning them with the possibility of freedom. For Egyptians, though, as for the many Middle Eastern peoples destined to come under foreign rule during that period, there would be no such illustrious symbols."

So when politicians such asTed Cruzsuggest that only Christian ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** should be allowed to enter America, andcriticsrespond with the ideals that the Statue of Liberty stands for, their statements have a particular historical resonance.

Had Egyptcome by better financial fortunes, Bartholdi may have built a grand tribute to a Muslim peasant. But instead she was reincarnated as Libertas, a Roman goddess symbolizing personal freedom in America.

Washington Post

**Load-Date:** November 19, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Britain must be prepared to send troops into Syria to set up safe havens, says former Tory Cabinet minister; Andrew Mitchell said creating safe havens on the Syrian border would be the best way of tackling the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW0-VMY1-F021-6138-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 7, 2015 Monday 10:55 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 658 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

David Cameron should be prepared to consider sending British troops into Syria to set up safe havens for refugees, a former Conservative Cabinet minister has said.

Andrew Mitchell, the former international development secretary, called for the UN to organise the "humanitarian safe enclaves" in Syria, insisting it was the best way to tackle the growing refugee crisis that has spilled over from the Middle East into Europe.

More than four million Syrians have fled the country and roughly the same number have been displaced internally.

The Prime Minister will set out how many ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** will be taken in by Britain in a statement to MPs later today but has insisted the best way to help solve the humanitarian crisis was to provide aid to refugee camps surrounding the country.

He has come under more pressure to offer a significant number of places for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** after Francois Hollande said France would accept 24,000 of those fleeing the country's four-year civil war.

He has been told by Yvette Cooper, the shadow home secretary and Labour leadership contender, that foreign aid money being sent to local councils in the UK to resettle refugees must not reduce support for areas around Syria.

George Osborne announced the move to divert international development funds to help local authorities house refugees yesterday.

But the Labour leadership hopeful demanded to know why the Prime Minister was not taking money from the Government reserve, which she said had happened previously. "The reserve was created to provide support when extreme things happen," she told the Today programme.

Responding to suggestions made by the Chancellor yesterday that the Government could seek Parliament's backing for airstrikes against Isis targets in Syria, Ms Cooper said the Government would have to explain how it would help the situation in order to secure Labour's support.

Read more: Refugee crisis: Hollande says France will take 24,000 refugees and 'begin Syria air missions' Aylan Kurdi's father Abdullah returns to the ruined homes of Kobani after burying his familySign The Independent's petition calling on Britain to take in its fair share of refugeesEurope 'must act humanely on refugees or face closed borders and xenophobia'

A move by the coalition government to bomb President Assad's regime in Syria in 2013 was defeated by MPs after Labour opposed the move, a decision that Mr Osborne described as "one of the worst decisions the House of Commons has ever made".

"I think with something as serious as military intervention you have to look at what the Government is proposing," Ms Cooper said.

"They have to be clear what it is they want to do that will help. In Syria you have the problem with both Isil and (President Bashar) Assad.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

"In Syria what the whole Government needs to explain, do they want to help Assad?"

She added: "Asking an opposition to respond without seeing what the clear proposals are would not be responsible."

Addressing the refugee crisis, Mr Mitchell suggested the creation of UN safe havens should be built in Syria near its border with Turkey or along its southern border with Jordan, which he said could protect millions of refugees from the conflict that has engulfed the country over the past four years.

"Ideally Britain would not be involved in putting troops on the ground but we should be willing to consider that," the Tory MP said.

"Bear in mind that this is not the offensive action by troops that people in Britain sometimes recoil from, it is a defensive action, it would need to be done under the UN charter, probably with a chapter seven mandate which enables them to defend themselves.

"We would be talking about an international body hopefully composed of troops from Jordan and Egypt and other countries in the region willing to shoulder the burden."

Click here to sign The Independent's change.org petition for the UK to welcome a fair share of refugees.

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Justin Trudeau on Canada: We are subject to same kinds of tensions that so much of the world is facing*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MDK-CVY1-F021-64N0-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 17, 2016 Saturday 10:33 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 241 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

Justin Trudeau agrees Canada is a "special" place, but he is keen to remind people that it still has its own set of problems.

Images of the Canadian Prime Minister welcoming ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** immortalised Canada, in the minds of many, as a safe haven in such a volatile and increasingly dividedglobal landscape.

Mr Trudeau agress the country has become a beacon for many, but he is also encouraging a more realistic view of Canada to the world.

"I think there's a lot of people saying 'oh well, Canada is a special place,' and we are," Mr Trudeau told

The Guardian

. "But we are subject to the same kinds of tensions and forces that so much of the world is facing right now."

Mr Trudeau's policies have sat absolutely juxtaposed next to the anti-immigration, anti-refugee and anti-Muslim policies posited by Donald Trump, so much so that Canada's immigration site crashed as soon as it became clear Mr Trump's announcement as the President-elect was imminent.

But those rushing to emigrate suddenly found they may have been doing so in haste when Mr Trudeau then congratulated Mr Trump on his victory in a warm, lengthy statement. In his message, Mr Trudeau said he looked forward to working "very closely" with the President-elect. Other world leaders were more reserved in their responses, such as French President Francois Hollande, who said Mr Trump's election marked "a period of uncertainty".

**Load-Date:** December 17, 2016

**End of Document**



[*EU ministers fail to reach agreement on sharing burden of refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXN-9G01-JCS0-D1SH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 15, 2015 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 12

**Length:** 667 words

**Byline:** LEO CENDROWICZ IN BRUSSELS AND TONY PATERSON IN BERLIN

**Body**

European Union interior ministers failed to agree last night on how to redistribute 120,000 refugees from Italy, Greece and Hungary to other EU countries.

Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn, who chaired the meeting, said it was "premature for the Council to take a decision today".

"Even though we are in urgent circumstances, we have to follow procedures," he said.

Earlier, the German Interior Minister, Thomas de Maiziere, said EU nations had "agreed in principle" to share refugees between different countries, but more work would be done at the next interior ministers' meeting on 8 October.

The news came after Germany reimposed border checks following an influx of refugees, raising questions about the viability of the EU's passport-free Schengen zone. Britain, which has an opt-out from the relocation proposals, will not be taking part, the Home Secretary, Theresa May, confirmed in Brussels. She said Britain would instead resettle 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over five years from camps in the Middle East.

Ms May said this would ensure that the most vulnerable would come to the UK. "We need to urgently set up registration centres so that people are properly fingerprinted and registered when they arrive in Europe," she said.

Despite pleas last week from European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker for binding relocations, the EU interior ministers were unable to agree mandatory quotas and or indicate which countries would be involved. The ministers nonetheless committed to the scheme to move refugees away from Greece, Italy and Hungary, the three countries under the most strain as the main EU entry points for migrants.

Other measures under consideration are large internment camps for refugees in Italy and Greece, to temporarily accommodate people while they are identified, registered and finger-printed.

"Their asylum claims are to be processed quickly and those who fail are to be deported promptly," one ministerial document said. They are similarly looking at building camps at the popular refugee departure points outside the EU, where failed asylum-seekers could be returned. Other measures being debated include biometric data in the passports of non-EU citizens - stored when they apply for a visa - to make their deportation easier.

These measures would tie in with demands made yesterday by the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, for EU host countries to set up big reception centres, as it warned that thousands of refugees could be left in "legal limbo" if EU members adopt different border rules.

The ministers were meeting after Germany restored border controls on Sunday. The European Commission acknowledged that Berlin's move was in prima facie accordance with Schengen rules on crisis situations, but it had a domino effect across Europe.

German police dispatched to the borders said the measures were proving ineffective. Officers said that although they had set up roadblocks they were unable to limit the influx. A border policeman told Der Spiegel yesterday: "The border is just as porous as it was before. If we shut it we would have a Hungarian situation here."

Police said they had been told to make sure war refugees from Syria were allowed in while others from so-called safe counties were not. One officer said: "They all claim to be Syrian even if they are quite obviously black Africans."

The officer said that even if they were able to effectively identify sham war refugees, police simply did not have the manpower to turn them back. ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Munich also told The Independent last week: "Many people are pretending to be Syrian. Faking the documents is easy."

Munich received more than 19,000 refugees last weekend alone. The unprecedented influx prompted Ms Merkel's government to take action.

Austria followed suit yesterday by deploying army units on its borders with Hungary in another attempt to put the brakes on the influx. The Czech Republic and Slovakia said they planned to do the same. Poland said it was also considering border controls.

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Government refuses to reveal how many Syrians allowed into UK, as Britain's response to refugee crisis blasted by former judges; Authorities should show 'full transparency' following David Cameron's pledge to resettle 20,000 more people from war-torn country*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H4G-0JD1-JCJY-G0K4-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 12, 2015 Monday 11:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 644 words

**Byline:** RICHARD WILLIAMS, Samuel Osborne

**Body**

The Home Office has refusedto disclose how many Syrianshave been allowed into Britain - as leading former judges and lawyers said the Government was notaccepting enough refugees.

In an open letter, the legal professionals say David Cameron's promise to resettle an extra 20,000 people fleeing the war-torn country over five years is not enough.

One retired judge said the UK could cope with taking in 75,000 a year, the BBC reports, while the lettercalled for an "urgent, humane and effective government response to the refugee crisis".

They suggestedthe establishment of safe, legal routes into the EU.

Such routes would include "humanitarian visas" so refugees would not have to undertake dangerous journeys to reach Europe.

Refugees are held back by Slovenian riot police at the border in the small Croatian village of Harmica

The Prime Minister's pledge on 7 September came after

hundreds of thousands of people backed

TheIndependent

's campaign

calling for the UK to do its fair share to help relieve the crisis affecting millions on the continent.

But asked todisclose how many Syrians have been allowed to resettle in Britain since Mr Cameron's promise, the Home Office refused to reveal the figures.

Despite thechange in Britain's attitude to refugees, the Government insists it will not reveal how many of the 20,000 have been resettled until the next quarterly asylum statistics are published at the end of November.

The refusal was criticised by former Labour shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, who said the public had a right to know.

Read more

Germany's 'welcome culture' fades as refugees keep coming

The mayor of Vienna could be ousted due to the refugee crisis

Erdogan shames EU with Turkish stance on ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

One month after Aylan Kurdi, the baby no-one noticed

"The huge outpouring of public sympathy towards the plight of refugees fleeing terrible violence, conflict and persecution forced the Prime Minister to change his position and agree that Britain will take 4,000 refugees a year," she told

The Independent

.

"It's not enough - but it is a start. We now need full details of how many refugees have already arrived in our country and how many more will be arriving before the end of the year as winter sets in.

"The hundreds of thousands of people who signed petitionshave donated clothes, tents and food and even offered spaces in their own home will want to know the Government is delivering on its plan, so full transparency is needed."

The Home Office said the 20,000 Syrians referred to by the Prime Minister would be resettled by 2020 through its Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme.

Read more

12 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** a day for five years? That's barely a response

A spokesperson for the Home Office has said the UK hasgrantedasylum to more than 5,000 Syrians since the conflict began, and thatthe VPR scheme has successfully integrated more than 200 vulnerable people.

"We are working hard to bring in greater numbers of people who desperately need our assistance under the expanded scheme," thespokesperson said.

"Preparations are being made for a steady stream of arrivals in manageable numbers following local authority places being secured."

The Home Office said it will provide an update on the number of Syrians who have arrived on 26 November, when it next publishes its asylum statistics.

As European leaders attempt to deal with the flow of refugees and help those in need, the German governmentin particular has been praised for pledging to take on at least 800,000 asylum seekers this year - a figure which could rise to 1 million.

Refugees from Syria have also fled to neighbouringcountries, with 1.8 million entering Turkey, 1 million going to Lebanon, and 600,000 to Jordan.

**Load-Date:** October 12, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syrian refugee and daughters found dead in Danish freezer; Bodies of woman and children aged seven and nine found in freezer in family home*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M2K-T7G1-JCJY-G3GG-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 31, 2016 Monday 5:56 PM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 229 words

**Byline:** Harriet Agerholm

**Body**

The bodies of a 27-year-old Syrian woman and her two young children have been found in a freezer in southern Denmark.

Officers are searching for the woman's husband who is also father to the children, aged seven and nine.

Police said they were contacted by a member of the woman's family who had not been able to reach her for several days.

Read more

Home Office declines to comment on Jungle child refugee 'aged 22'

How the authorities failed the minors of the Calais Jungle

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Germany find mosques too conservative

The woman and the two girls were last seen on Wednesday or Thursday and on Sunday evening their bodies were found in a freezer inside their flat in the Danish town of Aabenraa. It is not yet known when or how they died.

South Jutland police have said in a statement the incident was a "family tragedy" and the father was a suspect.He is not thought to have been livingwith the family.

On Monday police were investigating the family home and speaking to people who knew them.

The family hadarrived in Denmark in summer of 2015 and gained refugee status. That year21,000 people soughtasylum in Denmark - a significant rise from the 14,815 applications in 2014.

Yet Denmark has a track record of being less welcoming than other Nordic countries, most notably because of the controversial jewellery law it adopted to seize the valuables of arriving refgees,

**Load-Date:** October 31, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Son of Vietnamese 'boat people' shares story of how Britain treated asylum seekers in the 1980s; Tat Wa Lay's mother was given food and clothing after arriving among the 'boat people' with her four children*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWF-M8F1-F021-63PX-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 9, 2015 Wednesday 4:13 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 586 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

As calls continue to grow for the UK to take in more of the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing to Europe, the son of a "boat person" who arrived in England in the 1980s has shared his story.

Tat Wa Lay's mother reached British shores in 1984 with nothing but her four children and the clothes on their backs, alongside 90 other asylum seekers from Vietnam.

Unable to speak English, she expected "hostility and racism" as they arrived in their new home on a council estate, he wrote on Facebook.

"And then this happens. A young scruffy looking man steps up, takes off his coat and handed it to the freezing cold refugees.

"A gesture so touching, that everybody later followed.

"People then went home to fetch clothes they didn't need and handed it to the refugees and ensured they were all fed and watered."

The family was among up to 800,000 Vietnamese "boat people" who fled the country in the two decades after the end of the Vietnam War.

The exodus, fuelled by government repression including the use of "re-education camps" and extrajudicial executions, saw many die of drowning, disease and starvation, as well as at the hands of pirates.

Read more: Europe bitterly divided over refugee crisisPregnant refugee gives birth to baby at seaThe map that shows why some EU countries want refugees

Mr Tat, who now lives in Ho Chi Minh, shared his mother's story on Facebook in a post that went viral, being shared more than 110,000 times and "liked" by almost 180,000 people by Wednesday afternoon.

He wrote it on Saturday, after David Cameron vowed that Britain would take in "thousands more" ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as outrage continued following the death of three-year-old Aylan Kurdi.

Mr Tat said his family would always remember the generosity of their British neighbours.

"My mother has never forgot that moment, when she was able to use a coat to wrap her boys so they could stop shivering," he wrote.

"My brother can still remember the warmth that coat gave him and it stays in his heart to this day.

"It's these things that British people do, that make them truly British."

He wrote that because England took his family in, they were "able to give so much back".

Three of his relatives are now doctors in the NHS, with one working at Southmead Hospital in Bristol, while others have opened a total of 27 restaurants, takeaways and nail bars.

"We never stole your jobs, we created our own and gave some to you," Mr Tat added.

"Please take a moment to think about all the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and think to yourself, what makes you British?"

The emotional post inspired thousands of responses, with some people sharing their own life stories as refugees in Britain, Australia and other countries around the world. The refugee crisis - in pictures

Among the commenters was someone who "had problems" with Mr Tat's family and other refugees when he was growing up in Bristol. The former neighbour got in touch to apologise.

Speaking to the BBC from Vietnam's largest city, where he has moved temporarily to teach English, Mr Tat said he had no idea of the impact his post would have.

"I just wanted to reach out to all the people who have a negative opinion about the current refugee crisis," he added.

"I guess I wanted to change their mindset, to tell them that refugees are really not bad people and that we have so much to give back to the society.

"I also wanted to promote kindness. I am totally overwhelmed."

This newspaper has started a campaign for the UK to welcome a fair share of refugees.

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Paddy Power ruined a perfectly valid argument with its latest publicity stunt about immigration; Betting firm deploys lorry inviting immigrants to 'jump in the back' but only if they're 'good at sport' as it uses Calais migrant crisis to promote itself*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GBR-T8F1-JCJY-G2HK-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

July 3, 2015 Friday 7:17 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 617 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

At first sight glance, the latest publicity stunt from Paddy Power looked like a distasteful joke about the current migrant crisis in Calais, where thousands of migrants are taking advantage of traffic delays by jumping in the back of every passing lorry.

However it turns out the betting company has made a perfectly valid point about Britain's current immigration system, but managed to ruin it by a) taking advantage of a humanitarian crisis to boost its image and b) depicting Andy Murray as an immigrant.

Plastered across the side of its lorry is the slogan: "Immigrants, jump in the back! (But only if you're good at sport)" accompanied by a host of Britain's top sports stars who were born outside the UK as well as Andy Murray, who the firm describes as "sometimes Brit, sometimes Scot".

Whether intentional or not, Paddy Power makes a very pertinent point about Britain's immigration system, which is based around a discriminatory visa classification where non-EU migrants are only allowed into the UK if they have been offered a skilled job on a salary over a certain threshold.

And the government even set a cap on the number of those skilled migrants that are allowed in, which was breached last month for the first time since it was introduced four years ago.

Non-EU migrants also have to pay a fee of around £500 to be let in and each of their dependents costs a similar fee too.

Read more: Calais strike 'suspended' but thousands of lorry drivers still stuck on M20 in KentThe two graphs that reveal the UK's abysmal record on Syrian refugeesDavid Cameron says Britain will accept just 'a few hundred' more ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** Calais migrant crisis is 'totally unacceptable' says David Cameron as he resists calls from the French to move border to DoverNationwide poster campaign aims to 'celebrate, not vilify' immigrants

So the message the UK is sending the non-EU world: you can come to our country, but only if you're already really good at your job, have a well-paid job lined up and have enough money to pay the entry fee.

If we end up leaving the EU, European citizens can expect to be judged on the same discriminatory conditions.

Paddy Power made the same point by inviting immigrants to "jump in the back" of their lorry but only if they're "good at sport".

Footballer Raheem Sterling, long-distance runner Mo Farah, rugby star Manu Tuilagi and England's cricket captain Eoin Morgan were all born outside of the UK but came to the UK before they were good at their jobs - perhaps some of the millions of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** rejected by the UK would grow up as football stars too if we gave them asylum.

A more powerful way of making the same point would have been to plaster its lorry with the faces of the thousands of poorly paid and low-skilled migrants who Britain's economy relies upon as cleaners, builders, nurses and bus drivers, as the<em class="italic" /><em class="italic">I Am an Immigrant poster campaign did earlier this year.

A Paddy Power press officer insisted it was not trying to make a political point with the poster but simply trying to have some fun with Britain's sports stars, who attract the millions of pounds worth of bets that benefit the the betting industry.

A spokesman said: "We're not commenting on the migration crisis. What we're doing is making a joke about Britain's leading sports stars, in particular Andy Murray. That's where it ends for us. We're not wading into discussions about what's going on. This is predominantly about Andy Murray's nationality."

If only a company that benefited from Britain's cheap but vital migrant population decided to drive a lorry around Dover with the faces of cleaners, builders, nurses and bus drivers plastered on its side...

**Load-Date:** July 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Politicians' anti-immigrant rhetoric fuelled post-Brexit hate crime spike, UN says*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KJN-60J1-JCS0-D09J-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

August 27, 2016 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 7

**Length:** 269 words

**Byline:** JON STONE

**Body**

British politicians' "divisive, anti-immigrant and xenophobic rhetoric" throughout the EU referendum campaign fuelled a surge in hate crimes following the vote, a United Nations body has said. BBC News reports that the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination said it was "seriously concerned" that British politicians whipped up hatred and then "failed to condemn" racist abuse during the campaign.

Hate crimes surged by 42 per cent in England and Wales in the immediate wake of the Brexit vote, with 3,076 incidents recorded across the country between 16 and 30 June. Many areas that voted strongly for Leave posted even higher results, police figures obtained by The Independent show.

"The committee remains concerned that despite the recent increase in the reporting of hate crimes, the problem of under-reporting persists, and the gap between reported cases and successful prosecution remains significant," the report said. It added: "As a result, a large number of racist hate crimes seem to go unpunished."

The report's authors are also concerned about "negative portrayal" of ethnic minority communities, immigrants, asylum-seekers and refugees in British media. They also raised concerns about the possible repeal of the Human Rights Act, a policy confirmed by Justice Secretary Liz Truss earlier this week.

Ukip leader Nigel Farage was widely criticised for unveiling a poster with pictures of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** alongside the headline: "Breaking point". He was also criticised for saying the referendum campaign had been won "without a shot being fired" - despite the shooting of Labour MP Jo Cox.

**Load-Date:** August 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian interpreters 'need more support' as they deal with traumatised families*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5R89-6111-JCS0-D4J9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

December 26, 2017 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 14

**Length:** 714 words

**Byline:** MAY BULMAN SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

**Body**

Interpreters for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** should be given psychological support as a "priority" due to the stress the work causes, according to a study.

Researchers found that while arrangements under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme (SVPRP) had exceeded the expectations of refugees, there were concerns about support given to interpreters.

The study, which looked at how the scheme was rolled out in Edinburgh as a way to provide guidance for other authorities, highlights how the workers were often the "only available staff" to families, which saw them build close relationships.

Interpreters reported breaking into tears during meetings and suffering bouts of depression as a result of what they were dealing with, often providing help out of hours.

SVPRP is a programme which commits the UK Government to resettling 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. It was announced by the Government following a public outcry over the fate of those attempting the perilous journey across the Mediterranean.

More than 8,000 refugees have so far arrived in the UK under the scheme, which has had a "truly transformative" impact on people's lives, according to a recent report from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Refugees have said they are grateful for the "genuine welcome" they have received in the UK, and are heartened that their children have been able to attend school and catch up on lost education, the report said.

But the latest study, published by Oxford University Press on behalf of Faculty of Public Health, indicates that not enough support id put in place for the interpreters required to support the families.

One of the interpreters said in the study: "I just feel down and depressed because every day you are hearing what they've been through and it brings back memories to me, because we've been through this as well in my country - I was crying with them."

Another added: "I've done quite a lot of work with the police, hospitals and courts, but the fact that you establish a relationship with the families, things affect you."

NHS Lothian consultant Dermot Gorman, co-author of study, said: "It's always variable with each worker, each one has a different approach, but some would be going out on a Saturday evening to put in papers for appointments. It could be stressful for interpreters. They were hearing stories that perhaps had resonance with their own lives."

Dr Gorman said the programme has been largely successful and was confident the country could take in more of those in need.

Problems identified include language problems for the new arrivals and difficulties with navigating NHS services, which led to them using interpreters as a first point-of-call for assistance.

The study focused on Edinburgh as it was one of the first in Scotland to take in large numbers through the resettlement scheme. It was announced last week that Scotland had taken in its target of 2,000 refugees three years ahead of schedule.

Th researchers reviewed the successes and downfalls of the programme through the experience and opinions of interpreters during 2015 and 2016, and have called on a number of recommendations to be implemented. In its conclusion it said psychological support for them should be "prioritised".

Counselling is available for staff, but the paper said its availability should be reinforced in training for interpreters. It adds that management should consider the workers' own histories when giving them jobs. The findings, have been fed back to City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian.

Professor Alison McCallum, NHS Lothian's director of public health and public policy, said: "We are committed to ensuring all our staff, especially those who experience stressful situations through their work, have access to a range of occupational health support services to help them deal with stress and trauma. These services are made available to all our staff, including our interpreters, so that they are able to seek help when they need it."

A City of Edinburgh Council spokeswoman said: "We encourage all staff who encounter stress in their role to come forward and access the various support networks we have in place. We are aware of the report and will be considering whether it has any further implications for the support we give our interpreters."

**Load-Date:** December 25, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Turkey turns on Syrian refugees; Families fleeing the carnage in Aleppo are being greeted at the border with bullets and beatings. LAURA PITEL reports from Kilis on Ankara's increasingly inhumane efforts to put up the barricades*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J7B-FSP1-F072-42TS-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

March 5, 2016 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 25

**Length:** 1003 words

**Byline:** LAURA PITEL

**Body**

Turkish border guards are routinely attacking Syrians attempting to cross illegally into Turkey, refugees and campaigners have claimed.

Families who fled the recent fighting in Aleppo told The Independent that officers had opened fire as they tried to reach Turkey with the help of smugglers. Others spoke of heavy beatings for those caught after attempting to slip across.

Turkey has cracked down on its border security amid heavy pressure from the US to limit the transit of jihadist fighters seeking to join Isis. At the same time, the European Union has urged Ankara to stem the flow of refugees setting off towards Europe in dinghies from Turkey's western coast.

As EU leaders prepare for a key summit with Turkey on Monday, aimed at preventing a repeat of last summer's influx, they face warnings that they must also encourage Turkey to grant safe passage to those trying to escape a war zone. Turkey insists that it maintains an "open door" policy towards Syrians, but human rights groups say that, for the past year, only those with serious or urgent medical conditions have been allowed to cross.

Ankara does not deny that border guards sometimes open fire on those crossing illegally. "In certain cases, the border patrol has no option but to fire warning shots because they often come under attack from smugglers and terrorist groups on the Syrian side," a senior government official said, while insisting that the border force had an "outstanding track record".

Syrians say that Turkey's policies are pushing them into the arms of greedy and unscrupulous smugglers - and that guards use excessive force on those fleeing in fear for their lives.

Aliya Radwan, a grandmother from the town of Hraytan in northern Aleppo, was cowering from air strikes in a neighbour's basement when she decided that she had to leave. She knew that she and her family would not be allowed into Turkey at the Bab al-Salama crossing, 25 miles to the north. She had friends among the tens of thousands from Aleppo province who had already flocked to the border but were sleeping in the open after being barred from entering Turkey.

Instead, she turned to a smuggler. He took her family to a crossing at the town of Khirbet al-Jawz in neighbouring Idlib province. On their first attempt to cross on a dark, rainy night last month, they were forced to retreat in terror after border guards opened fire. They managed to sneak through undetected on a second attempt. Others were not so lucky.

A young widow who fled heavy bombardment in Aleppo two months ago, who asked to be named only as Fatima, said that she saw border guards shoot a young girl making the same journey. "She didn't speak Turkish so didn't understand when they shouted 'Get away!'" she recalled. "The guards opened fire." She did not know whether the girl had lived or died.

Amnesty International reported last month that hospitals in Azaz, a town near the Turkish border, were receiving two civilians a day who had been shot while attempting such crossings. It said that, in one case, a child aged 10 died after being shot in the head.

That claim was echoed by Dr Ali al-Saloum, an orthopaedic surgeon at a hospital in Azaz. He said that the number of cases waxed and waned but, during the worst periods, it was common to see two people a day who were shot trying to cross the border. He had seen victims old and young, including a one-year-old baby girl, who died after being shot in the head. Dr Saloum said that, while the problem had been going on for some time, he believed it had grown worse. "It used to be much rarer," he said. "And when it did happen it was people being shot in the leg of the arm. But people started dying."

He said there was a bitter irony in the ultimate fate of some of those most badly injured while trying to reach the neighbouring country. "The funny thing is that, with the most seriously injured people, we don't have the necessary specialism or intensive care services. So we get them transferred to Turkey."

Some of those seeking to sneak into Turkey have suffered heavy beatings. Aktham Alwany, 28, a Syrian activist and journalist, said he was beaten on two separate occasions after being caught attempting to enter Turkey illegally to visit his mother, who has cancer.

On his first of three attempts to cross via the Syrian-Kurdish enclave of Afrin, he says that he was stopped, beaten and detained. His mobile and laptop were taken. After being released, he tried again, near the Turkish town of Kilis. As he and others attempting to cross illegally jumped down into a trench that demarcated the crossing, border guards opened fire, he said. He gave himself up, he said, and was hit over the head with a rock. He claimed to have suffered heavy bleeding from his forehead and nose, followed by period of memory loss. A photograph taken by doctors shows his face streaked with blood.

He said that he eventually made it into Turkey after paying a border guard $1,000 to hide in the back of a goods truck. His experience motivated him to make a documentary about the problem. In the course of filming, he met people who were attacked with dogs, who suffered broken ribs from beatings, and a mother whose child was shot.

Mr Alwany said that he did not solely blame Ankara. "I want to be fair, it's not only related to Turkey," he said. "The issue is bigger than Turkey." But he warned that people already fleeing Syrian and Russian bombing, the tyranny of Isis or the attacks from rebel groups, now faced a fresh danger.

Andrew Gardner, a Turkey researcher for Amnesty International, said that it was "abhorrent" that people seeking protection should find themselves facing live fire at the border. He called for regulated safe border crossings for Syrians and urged the EU to "live up to its responsibilities" towards asylum seekers so that Turkey - a country that already hosts 2.5 million Syrians - did not have to shoulder an unfair burden. He said: "Without those two things, these tragedies on the borders will be replayed again and again."

**Load-Date:** March 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian interpreters 'need more support' as they deal with traumatised families*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5R89-6111-JCS0-D4M5-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

December 26, 2017 Tuesday

Second Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 14

**Length:** 714 words

**Byline:** MAY BULMAN SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

**Body**

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Counselling is available for staff, but the paper said its availability should be reinforced in training for interpreters. It adds that management should consider the workers' own histories when giving them jobs. The findings, have been fed back to City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian.

Professor Alison McCallum, NHS Lothian's director of public health and public policy, said: "We are committed to ensuring all our staff, especially those who experience stressful situations through their work, have access to a range of occupational health support services to help them deal with stress and trauma. These services are made available to all our staff, including our interpreters, so that they are able to seek help when they need it."

A City of Edinburgh Council spokeswoman said: "We encourage all staff who encounter stress in their role to come forward and access the various support networks we have in place. We are aware of the report and will be considering whether it has any further implications for the support we give our interpreters."

**Load-Date:** December 25, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Continuous attacks are changing the way of life on the continent*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K9D-5PD1-JCS0-D3NR-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 24, 2016 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 2

**Length:** 560 words

**Body**

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It becomes especially violent, with the capacity to take the lives of others with the suicidal perpetrators in places where guns are easily obtained. The point about that in the American context hardly needs labouring. What seems to have been happening in continental Europe is an enlarged trade in weapons from the East, and especially from the Balkans wars of 20 years ago.

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The fact is that a frightening set of factors have conspired to create the conditions for an almost permanent scale of low-level violence in towns and cities in Europe that have been free from trouble since 1945. There will be no mass insurgencies as we see in Iraq, say, and in their the day-to-day experiences Europeans will be less bothered than, say, Israelis or the Northern Irish during the Troubles.

But a way of life is changing.

**Load-Date:** July 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Men questioned on suspicion of people smuggling*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K25-5HP1-JCS0-D4GB-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

June 20, 2016 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 17

**Length:** 248 words

**Byline:** JESS STAUFENBERG

**Body**

Two men are being questioned on suspicion of people smuggling after they were rescued from a small boat filled with life jackets off the Kent coast.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) in Dover was sent out to rescue a small motor cruiser which had been spotted in difficulty at about 8am yesterday morning. Inside the 4.5-metre vessel were two men, who told their rescuers they were "lost", and a large number of life jackets, but no other occupants.

A spokesperson for Dover Lifeboat Station urged people not to sail at sea without proper equipment, especially in the English Channel, which has strong currents and a high volume of shipping traffic. He told The Independent: "The persons on board the vessle did not have any navigation or GPS equipment to navigate safely at sea."

It is understood that both men were transferred to the Border Force, the law enforcement unit within the Home Office responsible for immigration and customs controls. Their boat has also been handed in as evidence.

In May, a pair of British men were charged with people smuggling when they were found aboard a rigid inflatable boat containing 18 Albanian migrants.

About 5,000 refugees are living in poor conditions in Calais and Dunkirk, having fled war or economic difficulty in the Middle East and Africa. Other EU nationals live in relative poverty in some parts of Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, Albania and elsewhere.

The government has accepted 1,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and will take 20,000 by 2020.

**Load-Date:** June 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*UN: World faces largest refugee crisis in decades; Aid agencies are stretched to breaking point, claims UN refugee commissioner*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DHR-RNK1-F021-63NT-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 4, 2014 Tuesday 6:12 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 686 words

**Byline:** Chris Green

**Body**

The world's humanitarian community has "reached its limit" and is no longer able to cope with a massive rise in the number of refugees being forced out of their homes by global conflicts, a top UN official has warned.

Antonio Guterres, the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees, said the spike in the number of people being displaced by wars indicated that global peace and security was facing "the worst crisis of the last decades". Already overstretched aid agencies will soon be "totally unable even to provide the minimum support to the victims", he warned.

Speaking to TheIndependent, Mr Guterres said the world was facing an unprecedented "multiplication of conflicts" which had overwhelmed aid agencies, citing the situations in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, South Sudan and the Central African Republic as examples.

"I think it's fair to say that the humanitarian community has reached its limit," he said. "The funding available is no longer enough, the capacity to respond is completely overstretched. If you combine these [conflicts] with the impacts of climate change, with the multiplication of natural disasters, population growth, food insecurity, water scarcity - all this is creating a situation where humanitarian needs are growing exponentially and the capacity to respond is not able to match."

Citing official UN data, Mr Guterres said that in 2011, 14,000 people across the world were displaced by conflict every day - a figure which rose to 23,000 in 2012 and 32,000 last year. The numbers for 2014 have not yet been calculated but are likely to be higher, he predicted. "What we are witnessing is a dramatic increase in people being forced to flee," he said. "The world has apparently lost its capacity to prevent conflicts and to try and resolve them."

In pictures: Global refugee crisis

Mr Guterres suggested that the lack of a single dominant global superpower meant that some countries were able to start conflicts with relative impunity. "Everybody, apparently, is able to trigger a conflict anywhere in the world - and those conflicts, once triggered, go on and on," he said.

"Some political leaders believe that they can trigger conflicts because then the humanitarians will come and clean up the mess. We are no longer able to clean up the mess, to pick up the pieces. So the tragedies that we are witnessing are going to have much worse consequences for people's lives, and the levels of suffering will be worse and worse in the near future."

Mr Guterres, the former prime minister of Portugal, was in London today to launch a global UN drive against "statelessness" - a phenomenon by which a person is not recognised as a national by any country. More than 10 million people worldwide are estimated to fall into this category, which leaves them without any basic rights and often in legal limbo.

Statelessness can be caused by conflict, the arbitrary redrawing of state boundaries or simple discrimination against minorities. In 27 countries, women are denied the right to pass on their nationality to their children on the same basis as men, meaning that statelessness is passed from generation to generation. The UN wants to eradicate it totally within 10 years.

"To be stateless in some parts of the world is a daily torture," Mr Guterres said. "We believe that it is an unacceptable anomaly in the 21st century to still have people in this situation, and we feel the international community has a moral obligation to end this plight."

Mr Guterres also appealed to the UK Government to accept more ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from next year. In June, it emerged that only 24 extremely vulnerable Syrians made homeless by the civil war had been allowed to come to Britain by meeting the Government's strict criteria, after it declined to participate in the broader UN-administered resettlement programme.

"Our appeal to all countries, including the UK, is to increase for next year the numbers of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** resettled," he said. "The British decision was relating to very vulnerable people, people with very difficult conditions. Whatever can be done to increase its dimension would be very much welcome."

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2014

**End of Document**



[*If we are to defeat Isis, we must improve our relationship with Russia; Whatever Andrew Lloyd Webber thinks, Vladimir Putin didn't cause the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K5F-DXV1-F021-60P2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 5, 2016 Tuesday 6:09 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 529 words

**Byline:** Kim Sengupta

**Body**

Britain is in a state of economic and political turmoil following Brexit. Every day brings news of more bleak times ahead;the United Kingdom may split up if there is another Scottish referendum on independence. But the greatest threat faced by this country now and one we should be focusing on, according to Andrew Lloyd Webber, is Vladimir Putin.

Lord Lloyd Webber was irked that while the "United Kingdom and Europe feign to quarrel over what sort of trade agreements we may or may not have in two, three or ten years' time, Putin's involvement is steadily destabilising our European borders and unleashing the fury of war in a sinister echo of the Somme".

It was the Russian president who had apparently organised Brexit through Russia's involvement in the Syrian conflict,single-handedly creating the refugee crisis. Lord Lloyd Webber was at full dramatic flow: "I shudder to think how Putin must be looking at our troubles with glee... In quitting Europe we are no doubt hastening Putin's dream of the break-up of the EU, and with it potentially Western civilisation as we know it...

"I just hope that in five years' time, we don't look back with incredulity upon the way we wallowed in self-serving arguments about our economic prospects and how to better ourselves financially, whilst.... completely missing one of the greatest threats of our lifetime looming ominously on the horizon,"mourned the billionaire Baron .

The ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** had, of course, begun long before the Russian intervention there and to say that the Syrian civil war somehow led to the result of UK's vote in the referendum to leave the European Union makes one think that Lord Lloyd Webber could have a second career as a stand-up comedian.

But the UK's relationship with Russia is a serious matter and it is the subject of a new report by the House of Commons defence committee ahead of the Nato summit in Warsaw this weekend. Its main points are that relations between the two countries are at an "all time low", thatthere is a paucity of knowledge about Russia among UK officials and that there should be renewed dialogue with Moscow and cooperation against Isis.

All this is broadly true. One of the reasons for relations being so bad, however, has been fairly constant criticism of Russia by British ministers which many Western European diplomats find irritating as it hinders collective dialogue with Moscow, especially over Syria. There should, indeed, be more cooperation against Isis, not just by Britain, but byother Nato countries as well --- note that the Istanbul airport bombers came from former Soviet central Asia. There is already cooperation between Russia and Americaon the sharing of airspace in Syria and this is likely to be extended to other operational matters following talks between US Secretary of State, John Kerry and Russian foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov.

It is difficult to predict just how able the next British government would be to resent relations with Russia. One suspects that much of its energy will be spent instead on negotiating withdrawal from the European Union and trying to save the economy from further collapse, the real threat facing this country.

**Load-Date:** July 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Continuous attacks are changing the way of life on the continent*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KB9-9D01-F072-44WF-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

July 24, 2016 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 2

**Length:** 560 words

**Body**

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Still less did it constitute an attack organised or even inspired by Isis, given the young man's Iranian and Shia heritage. That does not mean, though, that it lacks any political consequence or meaning.

Germany has shown the world a moral lead in its attitude to the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***, and much of the influx has been centred on Munich and Bavaria more widely. This outstanding humanity has not been popular in all quarters, and the fact that this deranged young man declared himself a German, and that he was born and brought up in Germany, will do nothing to prevent the exploitation of his otherness for political ends.

Like the lone young Afghan lashing out with knives, it can only feed Islamophobia, just as incidents in Nice, Paris, Brussels, Orlando and in Florida will do so.

The approaching elections in Germany, France and the US, though so different in many ways, will have one theme in common with the British EU referendum: of societies and political systems struggling to come to terms with a disaffected population that feels excluded, left behind and ignored by political elites. They represent a receptive audience for demagogic leaders on the make. The rise of Ukip and Donald Trump is well documented. No one would be greatly surpised if Marine Le Pen's Front National and the Alternative for Germany party also made gains at the ballot box.

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But a way of life is changing.

**Load-Date:** July 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Continuous attacks are changing the way of life on the continent*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KB9-DSC1-JCS0-D1MR-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Load-Date:** July 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Austrian government to fine refugees that refuse to learn German and integrate; 'The migrant inflow should be reduced but those, who do have the right to get asylum, should be integrated into society'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HXF-TSW1-JCJY-G1TN-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 23, 2016 Saturday 3:20 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 260 words

**Byline:** Matt Payton

**Body**

Austria's Foreign Minister has announced any refugeerefusing to attend special integration courses or learn Germancould see their social benefits cut.

SebastianKurz told an economic forum in Davos, Greece: "Those who are not willing to learn German, who do not want to be part of the labor market, who are not ready to attend an integration course, will face social benefits cuts, it is an absolutely necessary next step.

"The migrant inflow should be reduced but those, who do have the right to get asylum, should be integrated into society."

Read more

Could the refugee crisis really break up the European Union?

Jordan blocks Syrian border to leave thousands of refugees stranded

45 refugees drown trying to reach Greece in two overloaded boats

Four ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** welcomed to UK after landmark legal ruling

Austrian authorities have planned eight hour "value and orientation" training courses which aim to teach refugees Austrian laws and social norms.

These courses will bepart of a wider integration program and will be

held in

Arabic, Farsi/Dari and English

- reports RT.

Mr Kurz'sstatement was reiterated by Markus Wallner, the head of the Voralberg region in Austria: "There can eventually be no avoidance behavior. Specifically, if someone avoids attending the values training course, [his] social benefits should be reduced."

Austria hasannounced a plan to cap the number of new arrivals in 2016to 37,500.

**Load-Date:** January 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Continuous attacks are changing the way of life on the continent*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KB9-D0T1-F072-4091-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

July 24, 2016 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 2

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**Load-Date:** July 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Humanitarian agencies have reached breaking point, says UN refugee chief*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DHP-M941-JCS0-D1PP-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

November 5, 2014 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 669 words

**Byline:** CHRIS GREEN SENIOR REPORTER

**Body**

The world's humanitarian organisations have reached their limit and are no longer able to cope with a massive rise in the number of refugees being forced out of their homes by global conflicts, a top UN official has warned.

António Guterres, the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees, said the spike in the number of people being displaced by wars indicated that global peace and security was facing "the worst crisis of the last decades". Already overstretched aid agencies will soon be "totally unable even to provide the minimum support to the victims", he warned.

Speaking to The Independent, Mr Guterres said the world was facing an unprecedented "multiplication of conflicts" which had overwhelmed aid agencies. He cited the situations in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, South Sudan and the Central African Republic as examples.

"I think it's fair to say that the humanitarian community has reached its limit," he said. "The funding available is no longer enough, the capacity to respond is completely overstretched. If you combine these [conflicts] with the impacts of climate change, with the multiplication of natural disasters, population growth, food insecurity, water scarcity - all this is creating a situation where humanitarian needs are growing exponentially and the capacity to respond is not able to match."

Citing official UN data, Mr Guterres said that in 2011, 14,000 people across the world were displaced by conflict every day - a figure which rose to 23,000 in 2012 and 32,000 last year. The numbers for 2014 have not yet been calculated but are likely to be higher, he predicted.

"What we are witnessing is a dramatic increase in people being forced to flee," he said. "The world has apparently lost its capacity to prevent conflicts and to try and resolve them."

Mr Guterres suggested that the lack of a single dominant global superpower meant that some countries were able to start conflicts with relative impunity. "Everybody, apparently, is able to trigger a conflict anywhere in the world - and those conflicts, once triggered, go on and on," he said.

"Some political leaders believe that they can trigger conflicts because then the humanitarians will come and clean up the mess. We are no longer able to clean up the mess, to pick up the pieces. So the tragedies that we are witnessing are going to have much worse consequences for people's lives, and the levels of suffering will be worse and worse in the near future."

Mr Guterres, the former prime minister of Portugal, was in London yesterday to launch a global UN drive against "statelessness" - a phenomenon by which a person is not recognised as a national by any country. More than 10 million people worldwide are estimated to fall into this category, which leaves them without any basic rights and often in legal limbo.

Statelessness can be caused by conflict, the arbitrary redrawing of state boundaries or simple discrimination against minorities. In 27 countries, women are denied the right to pass on their nationality to their children on the same basis as men, meaning that statelessness is passed from generation to generation. The UN wants to eradicate it within 10 years.

"To be stateless in some parts of the world is a daily torture," Mr Guterres said. "It is an unacceptable anomaly in the 21st century to still have people in this situation, and we feel the international community has a moral obligation to end this plight."

Mr Guterres also appealed to the UK Government to accept more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. In June, it emerged that only 24 extremely vulnerable Syrians made homeless by the civil war had been accepted under Britain's strict criteria, after it declined to participate in the UN-administered resettlement programme.

"Our appeal to all countries, including the UK, is to increase for next year the numbers of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** resettled," he said.

"The British decision was relating to very vulnerable people, people with very difficult conditions??? whatever can be done to increase its dimension would be very much welcome."

**Load-Date:** November 4, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Postcard from... Beirut*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BR0-2G01-J9YR-G019-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 12, 2014 Wednesday 12:00 AM GMT

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**Section:** I

**Length:** 237 words

**Byline:** Fernande van Tets

**Body**

"Do you have water?" has become a frequent refrain at Beirut social occasions. While usually forced to wear wellies throughout January, this year Lebanese saw particularly sunny weather.

They now react with joy to the skies opening. The farmers are worried about their harvest.  And the country's ski resorts have seen their winter season dry up; the lack of snow meant most didn't even open.

The problem does not come as a surprise; Lebanon has structural water issues. Last year 48 per cent of  its water was lost due to leaky infrastructure. The country is also hosting over a million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, increasing demand on its dwindling supplies. Municipal water runs out regularly at the end of summer. But now groundwater is also running low and turning salty.

And in the midst of economic hardship brought on by Lebanon's freefalling economy, the drought is hitting people's pockets. Municipal water prices increased 25 per cent last year, and now most people rely on costly private water trucks. The cost of 1,000 litres of water is around £16.

Summer in Lebanon usually brings protests about the lack of electricity, traditionally also in short supply as power-hungry ACs start humming. Riots about the lack of water seem imminent.

In the south of the country, residents have started to pray for rain in an ancient ritual called Shish Balli.

Over the weekend it seemed to work as taps flowed again. But for how long?

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2014

**End of Document**



[*The truth about Britain's relationship with Russia*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K5J-PCR1-F072-40V6-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

July 6, 2016 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 35

**Length:** 533 words

**Byline:** KIM SENGUPTA

**Body**

Britain is in a state of economic and political turmoil following Brexit, every day brings news of more bleak times ahead, the United Kingdom may split up if there is another Scottish referendum on independence. But the greatest threat faced by this country now, and one we should be focusing on, according to Andrew Lloyd Webber, is Vladimir Putin.

Baron Lloyd Webber was irked that while the "United Kingdom and Europe feign to quarrel over what sort of trade agreements we may or may not have in two, three or 10 years' time, Putin's involvement is steadily destabilising our European borders and unleashing the fury of war in a sinister echo of the Somme...".

It was the Russian President who had apparently organised Brexit through Russia's involvement in the Syrian conflict and single-handedly creating the refugee crisis. Baron Lloyd Webber was in full dramatic flow: "I shudder to think how Putin must be looking at our troubles with glee?? In quitting Europe we are no doubt hastening Putin's dream of the break-up of the EU, and with it potentially Western civilisation as we know it?? "I just hope that in five years' time, we don't look back with incredulity upon the way we wallowed in self-serving arguments about our economic prospects and how to better ourselves financially, while??. completely missing one of the greatest threats of our lifetime looming ominously on the horizon," mourned the billionaire Baron.

The ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** had, of course, begun long before the Russian intervention there and to say that the Syrian civil war somehow led to the result of UK's vote in the referendum to leave the EU makes one think that Baron Lloyd Webber could have a second career as a stand-up comedian should he choose to stop being a composer.

But the UK's relationship with Russia is a serious matter and it is the subject of a new report by the House of Commons defence committee ahead of the Nato summit in Warsaw this weekend.

It's main points are that relations between the two countries are at an "all time low", that there is a paucity of knowledge about Russia among UK officials and that there should be renewed dialogue with Moscow and cooperation against Isis.

All this is broadly true. One of the reasons for relations being so bad, however, has been fairly constant criticism of Russia by British ministers which many Western European diplomats find irritating as it hinders collective dialogue with Moscow, especially over Syria. There should, indeed, be more cooperation against Isis, not just by Britain, but other Nato countries as well - note that the Istanbul airport bombers came from former Soviet central Asia. There is already cooperation between Russia and American on sharing of airspace in Syria and this is likely to be extended to other operational matters following talks between the US Secretary of State, John Kerry, and Russian foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov.

It is difficult to predict just how able the next British government would be to reset relations with Russia. One suspects that much of its energy will be spent instead on negotiating withdrawl from the EU and trying to save the economy from further collapse, the real threat facing this country.

**Load-Date:** July 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Government commits to resettling an extra 3,000 refugees from Africa and Middle East; 'This is how we can stop traffickers and people smugglers from exploiting vulnerable people'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P31-PW41-F021-6380-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 23, 2017 Sunday 12:08 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS; Version:1

**Length:** 279 words

**Byline:** Press Association

**Body**

UK ministers say they are committed to resettling up to 3,000 children and families from the Middle East and North Africa, in addition to the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Local authorities across the country are currently supporting more than 4,000 unaccompanied asylum seeking children, they said.

Immigration Minister Brandon Lewis said: "We are committed to fulfilling our commitment under the Dubs scheme as soon as possible and ensuring that children arrive in the UK safely. This is just one aspect of a much wider response. We have committed to resettling 23,000 people directly from regions of conflict and last year we granted protection, or another form of leave, to over 8,000 children.

Read more

More than 100 child refugees missing in UK

"We are grateful for the support Scotland and Wales have provided and we have made clear our intention to extend the National Transfer Scheme to the rest of the UK so their local authorities can fully participate.

"We believe the most vulnerable children are in the conflict zone around Syria and the best way to help them is by resettling refugees directly from the region. This is how we can stop traffickers and smugglers from exploiting vulnerable people and children."

The Government has previously been accused of dragging its feet over the issue of allowing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** into the country, although public opinion on how many the UK should takeremains bitterly divided.

The latest announcementcomes as the Independent reveals more than 100 vulnerable refugee children are believed to have gone missing in the UK in the past year after being smuggled in by people traffickers operating in Calais.

Press Association

**Load-Date:** July 23, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Syrians face hungry winter as funding shortfall forces UN to halt food scheme; Britain is the second largest country donor to the Syrian crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DRF-BJR1-F021-62BH-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 1, 2014 Monday 7:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 656 words

**Byline:** Emily Dugan

**Body**

More than 1.7 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are facing a winter of food shortages after a funding squeeze forced the World Food Programme to withdraw critical support.

Syrians displaced across Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt Food were given food vouchers by WFP to spend in local stores. But now it has had to shut down the scheme saying it can only be reopened if a shortfall of $64m (£40m) is met.

Britain appealed to other nations to give more to support humanitarian efforts in the region.

Britain is the second largest country donor to the Syrian crisis, and has already committed more than £700m to tackling the humanitarian situation. A spokeswoman for the Department for International Development said Syrians "urgently need the rest of the world to play their part - both in terms of pledging money but also making good on their promises".

It is the first time WFP has been forced to take such drastic measures during the Syrian Crisis. In a statement today the UN's nutrition arm said the withdrawal of food aid "will be disastrous" for families scattered across the region. The crisis comes ahead of what is expected to be another harsh winter, which many children in camps are facing barefoot and without proper clothes.

Photojournalist Bradley Secker's images of Syria's dispossessed

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, said: "This couldn't come at a worse time. Winter is already an extremely difficult period for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, but the suspension of food assistance at this critical juncture is going to be devastating. It will impact tens of thousands of the most vulnerable refugee families who are almost entirely dependent on international aid."

More than 3.2 million people have fled Syria and another 7.6 million have been displaced inside the country since the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad began three years ago. Almost 1,700 people were killed in the conflict last month, the majority of them civilians, according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights.

The WFP executive director, Ertharin Cousin, said: "A suspension of WFP food assistance will endanger the health and safety of these refugees and will potentially cause further tensions, instability and insecurity in the neighbouring host countries. The suspension of WFP food assistance will be disastrous for many already suffering families."

READ MORE: 'No hard evidence' Isis kidnapped Canadian-Israeli womanWhat on earth is Nick Griffin doing in Syria?Two sets of British brothers 'travelled to Syria'

The UN is understood to be increasingly exasperated at a lack of donations from wealthier countries in the region.

A source said: "It's a long-running frustration that particularly with these crises in the Middle East, the donors who don't seem to be coming forward are the Gulf states. They could be contributing more to the international humanitarian system."

Oil-rich states such as the United Arab Emirates and Qatar consistently give little to humanitarian efforts compared with economies of similar sizes. Last year UAE gave just $50,000 to all of WFP's projects, less than Swaziland, Peru or Madagascar.

A pledging conference in support of UN humanitarian programmes in Syria, held in  Kuwait at the start of the year, saw generous promises from around the world, but with one month of 2014 left, UN insiders say much of the money has not come through.

The scheme is delivered electronically, giving people funds to spend in local shops, meaning there is little infrastructure required. Because of this the WFP says that if new funding arrives it will be able to resume assistance immediately.

Experts are worried that the withdrawal of the scheme will add to existing tensions between refugees and local populations. The vouchers have injected an estimated $800m into the economies of refugee hosting countries which border Syria, but without money to spend in local businesses, refugees may face further resentment.

**Load-Date:** December 1, 2014

**End of Document**



[*"If Europe fails on this question, it will no longer be the Europe we dreamed of"; Inside the refugee crisis From Lesbos to Budapest, thousands of people are clamouring to be admitted to safety in the EU. For Brussels, member states' lack of unity is alarming. In the second part of our week-long series, JOHN LICHFIELD considers a division that could tear the Union apart Day 2: The EU*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWC-GB41-JCS0-D399-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 9, 2015 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 28

**Length:** 1864 words

**Byline:** JOHN LICHFIELD

**Body**

A three-year-old refugee child drowns while trying to reach the safety of a muddled and largely unwelcoming EU. Syrian refugee families are herded on and off trains in Budapest. Other refugees have their arms marked with identity numbers by Czech police. Razor-wire fences are built in Hungary - and in Calais.

Germany (stiff, unyielding Germany) says: "Never mind the rules. Let them all come in." So does Sweden. Some East European countries say: "Only Christian refugees are welcome; and not too many of those please." Italy and Greece, swamped by refugees, demand more help from their partners. France and Austria vacillate. Spain says that it has problems enough.

Britain tries, as usual, to make and play by its own rules.

North vs south; east vs west; Britain vs the rest; German leadership or German dominance. The refugee crisis is like a diabolical stress test devised to expose simultaneously all the moral and political fault lines of the European Union.

The EU was born out of calamity. Over the last six decades, its policies have often been forged by resolving conflicts between member states.

And yet this crisis seems more profound, more acute, more tangled, more poisonous, than any that has gone before. It is not about currencies or net contributions or farm subsidies but about the core issues of common humanity and solidarity that the EU claims to epitomise.

The refugee crisis coincides with, and threatens to complicate, other existential challenges: Greek debt and the survival of the eurozone; EU reform and Britain's in/out referendum next year.

"The world is watching us," the German Chancellor Angela Merkel said last week. "If Europe fails on the refugee question, its close bond with universal human rights will be destroyed, and it will no longer be the Europe we dreamed of." Open continental borders, one of the greatest of EU achievements, may be destroyed, Chancellor Merkel warned, unless the crisis is rapidly resolved.

It is absurd to blame the EU for being "divided". All the countries in Europe, and many political parties and many families, are split on how we should respond to the greatest refugee crisis on our continent for 70 years. There are no easy answers. The problem will grow even larger in the months and maybe years ahead. How could the EU not also be divided? Some of the divisions reflect genuine and honourable divergences in analysis and strategy, in geography or economic strength. Other statements hint at darker forces of extreme nationalism and racial intolerance.

Disagreement is one thing. Irreconcilable differences are another.

Chancellor Merkel, the technocratic wicked fairy of the Grexit saga, has become the humanitarian good fairy of the refugee calamity. And yet her moral leadership is seen by some other EU governments - and not just in the east - as quixotic and foolhardy. Her open-hearted position on refugees is just as Germanocentric, they say, as her unyielding approach to Greece.

The crisis will also have a direct impact on the negotiations on EU reform before the British referendum. David Cameron's amended position - Britain will take 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from Middle Eastern camps over five years but not those already in the EU - has infuriated some other European governments.

Mr Cameron's stance fails to address the fact that over 300,000 refugees are already in Europe - and that more are arriving every day. Britain's go-it-alone attitude will be challenged at what looks certain to be a tempestuous meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels next Monday and a summit next month. There will also be enormous pressure on the Eastern European countries which are refusing to take all but Christian refugees.

The European Union was made, and often shaped, in crisis. Has a crisis arrived which might finally break it apart?

EU governments have a legal framework to deal with asylum-seekers: the Dublin Convention signed in 1990, which took effect in 1997. In broad terms, any refugee who arrives on EU soil must apply for asylum in the country where he or she first sets foot. The intention was to stop refugees from "asylum shopping" from one EU country to the next.

The system has never worked properly. Over the past two years it has buckled under the flood of African and Middle Eastern refugees across the Mediterranean to Italy and Greece and, more recently, the mass migration of Syrian and Balkan refugees into Hungary and Bulgaria.

The southern and eastern EU countries complained that the Dublin rules saddled them with almost the entire burden of cross-Mediterranean migration. The northern countries expressed sympathy but did little.

Some, such as Germany, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden, agreed to take some of the asylum-seekers. Other, such as France, erected obstacles at their southern frontiers (against the spirit of Schengen) to stop the refugees or migrants from coming north.

Many came north anyway. Some of them - but only a tiny fraction of the whole - piled up in Calais as they sought to enter Britain.

This summer the Dublin rules finally collapsed under the weight of the mass migration of Syrians, Kosovans and others through the Balkans to Hungary. The right-wing Hungarian government was left with an impossible situation that it did not handle well.

It built a razor-wire fence along its Serbian border; its police harassed and mistreated ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. It stopped them leaving for Austria and Germany and then changed its mind.

But what was Budapest supposed to do?

Under the Dublin rules, it was supposed to stop the migrants from entering the EU en masse; it was supposed to question those who arrived at its frontier and start asylum procedures for those genuinely considered to be fleeing war or oppression. It was not properly equipped to do either.

The Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban inflamed the situation by talking of a Muslim "invasion of Europe" and suggesting that "only Christian refugees" should be allowed to settle in Hungary. The Czech and Slovak governments have also refused to accept non-Christians. The Poles have been a little more generous.

Last month, Germany became the first country to state the obvious. The Dublin convention was dead. A new EU-wide asylum policy was needed. In future, Berlin announced, it would accept Syrian asylum-seekers even if they had already passed through another EU country. Chancellor Merkel said that Germany expected to receive 800,000 asylum-seekers this year. She called on other EU countries to accept a rejected European Commission plan for permanent quotas for the sharing of asylum-seekers according to each country's size and economic strength.

Germany, she implied, was prepared to do the most; it was not prepared to carry the burden alone. Unlike most other EU leaders, she was not caught out by the tidal wave of anger and emotion created last week by a photograph of a drowned three-year-old boy on a Turkish beach.

The French President, François Hollande, has now come down from the fence where he had been perched for months. Having previously refused any automatic and permanent system for dividing refugees, he has joined Germany and Italy in supporting the Brussels quota plan.

The Eastern European countries remain adamantly opposed.

For the Eastern Europeans, this is a first big moral and political test of their EU membership. The European Union was sold in Eastern Europe as a source of funds and opportunities - not a source of moral obligations or shared burdens.

Germany, the East Europeans say, needs refugees to boost its flagging population. Other European countries already have mixed Christian-Muslim populations. But we, on the EU's eastern borders, do not.

With the hard, nationalist right increasingly strong in such countries - and in power in Hungary - this position will be difficult for other EU governments to break down next week.

One German official told The Independent: "Until now, the Eastern Europeans had had many advantages in terms of investment and free movement for their young people. It is time for them to accept that they have to participate, within reason, in a decision by the whole of Europe to deal with this humanitarian catastrophe."

The whole of Europe? Enter: David Cameron. Mr Cameron says he will accept more ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - but not those who have already made their way to the EU. Giving them asylum places in Britain would, he argues, reward people-trafficking gangs and tempt even more refugees to attempt the perilous sea journey to Europe.

There may be some cold logic to that argument, but it amounts to abandoning the refugee-besieged southern and eastern EU countries. The Greek island of Lesbos alone has 15,000 mostly ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - as many as Britain is ready to accept in three years.

Mr Cameron argues that Britain has an exemption from EU migration policy. The European Commission accepts this, in principle.

At Monday's meeting, Brussels will propose a mandatory division of 120,000 refugees already in the EU - on top of 40,000 already allocated voluntarily. The UN insists that a realistic total would be nearer to 250,000. Even this figure will be overtaken in the coming months as some of the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Middle Eastern camps (four million in all) are attracted by the prospect of a new life in Europe.

The Brussels plan also includes better EU controls at external frontiers, including holding camps where bona fide refugees will be separated from economic migrants (who will in theory be sent home).

For the time being, the Commission suggests that Germany should take 31,443 more refugees (only three days' supply at the present rate of arrival in the Federal Republic). France should take 24,031, Spain 14,931, Poland 9,278, Romania 4,646, the Czech Republic 2,978 and so on.

Britain would be "ordered" to take none but would be "invited" to take part voluntarily. If we refuse, we will be asked to pay towards the cost of housing the refugees elsewhere.

France and Germany would have been angered by Mr Cameron's position in any circumstances. If Britain finds itself next Monday in a de facto anti-quota bloc with the Eastern Europeans - giving significant weight to their position - Ms Merkel, for one, will be profoundly angry. She has already warned, indirectly, that in these circumstances she would feel no great need to "save" Britain's membership of the EU by making concessions before the in/out referendum.

France takes a similar view. A senior official said: "Our position all along has been that we will help Cameron to keep Britain in the EU but we will not accept a situation where Britain has all the advantages of membership and none of the responsibilities. That is precisely what Cameron is demanding on the refugee question."

As it struggles with its greatest ever humanitarian test, the EU is in danger of being wrenched apart. Outright break-up is improbable. More likely there will be an acrimonious acceleration of the existing trend towards scission into a "core" and "periphery" - with Britain and Eastern Europe left in an outer or second division.

In those circumstances, it may not matter much whether Britain votes to leave or remain in the EU next year. The EU could, in effect, progressively leave Britain.

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Grenfell Tower fire: Miracle as baby dropped to safety from tenth-floor flat; In an attempt to save her child, a mother threw her baby from a window 'on the ninth or tenth floor'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NSS-W1S1-JCJY-G28F-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 14, 2017 Wednesday 4:39 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS; Version:1

**Length:** 246 words

**Byline:** Shehab Khan

**Body**

A baby dropped from a window on Grenfell Tower as fire tore through the building has miraculously escaped serious harm, witnesses say.

In an attempt to save thechild, a woman thought to be its motherdropped thebaby out of a window "on the ninth or tenth floor".

Eyewitnesses said a man in the crowd ran forward and caught the falling youngster.

How the unidentifiedwomanfared remains unknown.

Read more

Family of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** among those missing in Grenfell Tower fire

27-year-old Mariem Elgwahry reported missing in London blaze

Labour MP David Lammy searching for 'dear friend' Khadija Saye

Met Police confirm six deaths in Grenfell Tower block blaze

"The windows were slightly ajar, a woman was gesturing that she was about to throw her baby and if somebody could catch her baby," eyewitnessSamira Lamranisaid.

"Somebody did, a gentleman ran forward and managed to grab the baby."

Ms Lamranisaid she thoughtthe baby had not been hurt by the fall.

Another resident, named only as

Zara

, said a woman was forced to drop her son, aged about five,

from a

fifth- or

sixth-

floor window to escape

.

"One woman actually threw her son out of the window. I think he's OK. I think he might have just had some broken bones and bruises," she told radiostation

LBC.

At least six people have died and 74 people have been taken to hospital after a fire broke out in the 24-story Grenfell Tower in Kensington.

Forty engines andmore than 200 firefighters tackled the blaze.

The cause of the fire is not yet clear.

**Load-Date:** June 14, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Maine sheriffs visit ISIS-inspired Christmas display; Concerned neighbors called local authorities and media over Christmas display featuring "ISIS" written in ruby-red lights*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HKY-H4G1-F021-6518-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 14, 2015 Monday 6:21 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 276 words

**Byline:** Massoud Hayoun

**Body**

The concerned residents of a southern Maine town alerted law enforcement and local media to what they believed was a pro-ISIS Christmas display last weekend.

York County Sheriff William King, Jr. told

The Independent

that deputies visited the home in Limerick, Maine on Saturday and found "ISIS" - the acronym for the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria armed group - written out in ruby-red Christmas lights in an unidentified man'sfront yard.

"What is not so clear is that Santa Claus is 'relieving'himself on the words (see white stream)," Sheriff King told The Independent in an email including the above photograph.

"Deputies spoke with the homeowner explaining why the sheriff's office took an interest in his holiday display, and the homeownerstated he was going to rearrange the lights to clear up any doubts about his message," Sheriff King said.

He did not identify the individual behind the ISIS-inspired Christmas display, but said that "no law was broken."

"We did not tell him to take the lights down or to reconfigure anything," Sheriff King said.

Read more

Canada PM welcomes ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as US Muslims warn against hate

A third of Americans want to ban Muslims, poll shows

San Bernardino shooters 'were radicalized before' online dating

Donald Trump is still surging in the latest national poll

Donald Trump hits back with hint he may run as independent candidate

Muslim storeowner brutally beaten in New York City

**Load-Date:** December 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Belgium to launch 'respect for women' classes for refugees and migrants; Minister for Immigration claims compulsory courses in relations with womenwill not stigmatise refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HT7-SBV1-F021-619G-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 8, 2016 Friday 12:09 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 266 words

**Byline:** Jake Alden-Falconer

**Body**

Belgium is to introduce compulsary courses on 'respect for women' for non-European migrants and refugees.

Amid mounting refugee rhetoric across the continent following an alleged mass sex attack in Germany on New Year's Eve,the coming weeks will seeclasses launchedin asylum centres in Belgium, following a precedent setby Norway in December.

"They will consist of a series of rules on how to behave with women in both a general and sexual sense in our Western culture," said the Minister for Immigration, Theo Francken, an MP for the Flemish nationalist party.

Read more

'Some of the Cologne sex attackers claimed to be ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

Turkish police find factory 'making fake life jackets for refugees'

Police block France refugee camp aid as 'shocking' conditions worsen

Speaking to national Belgian broadcaster VRT, he said the move was "absolutely necessary", given "the high number of single young men who arrive in Belgium, and who come from a culture where relations with women are totally different to the West." He denied the lessons would stigmatise those seeking asylum.

Although the announcement comes shortly after incidents of sexual assault in Cologne, Germany, Francken claimed the policy was unrelated."Regardless of the profile of the perpetrators," he said,"I would not tolerate that behaviour here."

Other Belgian MPs were quick to criticise the policy. On Thursday, Isabelle Simonis, from the left-wing Parti Socialiste, denounced the move as "thinly veiled racism".

**Load-Date:** January 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Brexit would make it harder for UK to help world's most vulnerable people, warns Nicola Sturgeon; Scotland's First Minister says EU allows countries to work together onissues likethe refugee crisisand climate change*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J69-Y0C1-JCJY-G00P-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 29, 2016 Monday 8:58 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 551 words

**Byline:** Chris Green

**Body**

Leaving the European Union would make it harder for Britain to help the world's most vulnerable people, Nicola Sturgeon will warn on Monday, arguing that the UK's membership brings "social protection" as well as economic benefits.

In her first major intervention in the run up to this summer's referendum, Scotland's First Minister will say that the EU allows countries to work together to deal with big issues such as the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***, energy security and climate change.

Promising to campaign hard between now and 23 June as she seeks to secure an "overwhelming victory" for the Remain side, Ms Sturgeon will also argue that the UK would be better off trying to reform the EU from the inside rather than being left on the sidelines.

Read more

Brexit against Scotland's wishes 'would trigger independence vote'

"Having access to the European single market has removed barriers to trade and gives freedom to move capital, people, good and services - but the EU is not simply an economic union, it is so much more than that. Being part of the EU is also about solidarity, social protection and mutual support," she will say in a speech in London.

"This has become even more evident in the recent months, with independent members of the EU working collectively on pressing global challenges such as the movement of refugees and migrants, energy security and climate change. By working together within the EU, we can achieve far more and make a real difference to some of the world's most vulnerable people."

Pledging that the Scottish Government will make a "positive" and "constructive" case for the UK remaining part of the EU in the lead up to the vote, Ms Sturgeon will tell an audience of around 700 people at St John's Smith Square in Westminster that walking away from the bloc would leave Britain without a say in important issues.

Read more

Jeremy Corbyn defended from claims he privately backs Brexit

Michael Howard says Out vote need not mean Brexit

Tory rifts on Europe widen as IDS attacks 'pessimistic' Cameron

IDS slams David Cameron's 'low opinion of the British people'

Nine out of ten economists say Brexit will damage economy

"It's clear that being a member of the EU has its benefits, but with any institution improvements can be made," she will say. "If we are to influence positive change in Europe, we must remain within the EU - only that guarantees a role in the EU decision-making processes on issues that affect our everyday lives."

Although she will promise to campaign "wholeheartedly" for a Remain vote, Ms Sturgeon's main priority is the Scottish Parliament election in May, which is expected to see the SNP achieve a historic third term in power. Many in her party have denounced David Cameron's decision to call a quick-fire EU referendum, claiming that the campaign periods will inevitably overlap.

At the weekend the First Minister announced the formation of the SNP's official campaign for the UK to remain in the EU. Led by the party's Europe Minister and MSP Humza Yousaf, it will pursue a "positive, progressive and upbeat" message focusing on the benefits of continued membership.

**Load-Date:** February 29, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Turkey says letting it join the EU would help solve the refugee crisis; Turkey is home to three million refugee and has a border with Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J7V-C7M1-JCJY-G3M5-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 7, 2016 Monday 2:57 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 544 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

Turkey should be allowed to join the European Union in order to help solve the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** happening on its borders, the country has said.

Cem Isik, Turkey's deputy ambassador to Britain, said the country being barred from the EU had contributed to the international migration problems.

The country has been an official candidate for EU membership since 1999, with negotiations about accession launched in 2005 - but progress has been very slow.

"Turkey joining the European Union is a strategic objective - it's being going on for decades," Mr Isik told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

"For years the EU was reluctant to take on Turkey as a member state because it didn't want problems relating to Iraq and Syria at its border - now you can see how short-sighted that was."

Mr Isik was asked whether Turkey was blackmailing Europe into letting it join the EU. He said: "Turkey is not blackmailing Europe but it's disheartening to see that Europe only remembered Turkey after the migrant crisis last summer."

Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan has been accused of having authoritarian tendencies

Millions of refugees and migrants are passing through Turkey, which has opened its southern border with Syria for humanitarian purposes.

Turkey has allowed refugees to transit through its territory to move towards Europe - with president Erdogan last month threatening to use buses to send more people to the EU.

Sitting on the edge of the Syrian conflict zone, the country home to three million refuges but says aid promised by the EU to help care for them has not yet materialised.

The latest call to join comes amid an outcry in Europe over a crackdown on press freedom by the country's Government which is expected to delay accession even further.

This weekend the European Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn said Turkey was jepordising its future in the EU with the authoritarian policy.

Martin Schulz, the European Parliament President, also warned that the Government takeover of the Zaman opposition newspaper was "yet another blow to press freedom" in the region.

The deputy ambassador however defended his Government's actions.

"When you look at who is in prison for whatever purposes you will see there are people in there for murder, people in there for espionage," he said.

A map showing the movement of refugees from Syria towards Turkey's border

Long-standing roadblocks to Turkey's accession include refusing to recognise the Republic of Cyprus, which is an EU member state, poor relations with Greece, and the consistent opposition of Germany.

The strong role the army plays in the country's constitution and the fact most of the country is in Asia has also been subject a subject of concern.

Britain has however long supported Turkey accession to the EU. In 2010 David Cameron said he was "angry" at the slow pace of negotiations.

"A European Union without Turkey at its heart is not stronger but weaker... not more secure but less... not richer but poorer," he said at the time.

The previous Labour government also backed Turkish accession.

Turkey has a fast growing population of 75 million, making it almost as large as Germany and bigger than Britain or France.

It would be the second largest EU member state and likely shift the balance of power in Europe.

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Ben Carson humiliates youngster in front of his entire school; Mr Carson was speaking in Cedar Rapids, Iowa*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HT2-VJG1-F021-604F-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 7, 2016 Thursday 7:54 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 250 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

The Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson is known as someonewho often finds himself having to explain away his verbal slips and slides.

On Thursday, the former neurosurgeon had to work hard to try and reassure a youngster whom he unintentionally humiliated in front of his entire school.

W/ crowd of 500 @RealBenCarson just called out to 5th grade class: who's dumbest kid in class? At least half dozen kids point to 1 student.

- Timothy Meinch (@timeinch) January 7, 2016

Delivering a speech at the Isaac Newton Christian School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mr Carson began to make what he thought was a joke.

Mr Carson spoke at the Isaac Newton Christian School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

A reporter from the

Des Moines Register

was attending the event and live tweeting Mr Carson's remarks.

"With a crowd of 500, Ben Carson just called out to 5th grade class: who's dumbest kid in class? At least half dozen kids point to 1 student," the reporter tweeted.

Read more

Ben Carson likens ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to 'rabid dogs'

Ben Carson's campaign makes US map with five states in wrong locations

Ben Carson hits out at journalists who question his life story

The reporter pointed out that Mr Carson had not intended or anticipated this sort of response. Indeed, the candidate later met with the red-faced youngster backstage where he apparently told him he wanted him to become a neurosurgeon as well.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Sir Richard Branson: Blaming all Muslims for Paris attacks like 'blaming all Americans for past actions of Ku Klux Klan'; The Virgin founder also criticised Republican governors*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HF0-TSD1-F021-6200-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 21, 2015 Saturday 9:35 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 270 words

**Byline:** Olivia Blair

**Body**

Sir Richard Branson has urged people not to blame the Muslim community for the Paris attacks.

Writing in a blog on Virgin's website, the entrepreneur said he was "frustrated" by the way some have passed judgement "on entire populations, based on the actions of a radical few."

He compared those blaming Muslimsfor the Paris attacks to blaming "all Americans for the past actions of the Ku Klux Klan".

The 65-year-old also criticised Republican governors who sought to block ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** entering the country in the wake of last week's massacre.

"These positions fuel a collective paranoia that tends to be more interested in confirming existing biases rather than the truth."

Calling Isis a "gang of murderous thugs pretending to act in the name of faith", Sir Richard advocated looking at the causes of extremist violent movements.

"More often than not, weak governance, corruption, poor economic conditions came long before things turned bad. Extremism became an outlet, not a source."

Read more

The government's conveyor belt view of radicalisation is wrong

Trump's plans for Muslim 'register' compared to Nazi treatment of Jews

Mehdi Hasan warns against playing into Isis terrorists hands

However, the Virgin founder praised the "sensible humanity" offered by 18 mayors who pledged to allow refugees settlement.

Sir Richard previously expressed sadness at the "anti-refugee and anti-immigrant rhetoric" which was taking place during the refugee crisis - which he called a "moral crisis".

**Load-Date:** November 21, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Turkey says letting it join the EU would help solve the refugee crisis; Turkey is home to three million refugee and has a border with Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J7T-PMH1-F021-64KB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 7, 2016 Monday 9:13 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 543 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

Turkey should be allowed to join the European Union in order to help solve the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** happening on its borders, the country has said.

Cem Isik, Turkey's deputy ambassador to Britain, said the country being barred from the EU had contributed to the international migration problems.

The country has been an official candidate for EU membership since 1999, with negotiations about accession launched in 2005 - but progress has been very slow.

"Turkey joining the European Union is a strategic objective - it's being going on for decade," Mr Isik told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

"For years the EU was reluctant to take on Turkey as a member state because it didn't want problems relating to Iraq and Syria at its border - now you can see how short-sighted that was."

Mr Isik was asked whether Turkey was blackmailing Europe into letting it join the EU. He said: "Turkey is not blackmailing Europe but it's disheartening to see that Europe only remembered Turkey after the migrant crisis last summer."

Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan has been accused of having authoritarian tendencies

Millions of refugees and migrants are passing through Turkey, which has opened its southern border with Syria for humanitarian purposes.

Turkey has allowed refugees to transit through its territory to move towards Europe - with president Erdogan last month threatening to use buses to send more people to the EU.

Sitting on the edge of the Syrian conflict zone, the country home to three million refuges but says aid promised by the EU to help care for them has not yet materialised.

The latest call to join comes amid an outcry in Europe over a crackdown on press freedom by the country's Government which is expected to delay accession even further.

This weekend the European Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn said Turkey was jepordising its future in the EU with the authoritarian policy.

Martin Schulz, the European Parliament President, also warned that the Government takeover of the Zaman opposition newspaper was "yet another blow to press freedom" in the region.

The ambassador however defended his Government's actions.

"When you look at who is in prison for whatever purposes you will see there are people in there for journalism, people in there for espionage," he said.

A map showing the movement of refugees from Syria towards Turkey's border

Long-standing roadblocks to Turkey's accession include refusing to recognise the Republic of Cyprus, which is an EU member state, poor relations with Greece, and the consistent opposition of Germany.

The strong role the army plays in the country's constitution and the fact most of the country is in Asia has also been subject a subject of concern.

Britain has however long supported Turkey accession to the EU. In 2010 David Cameron said he was "angry" at the slow pace of negotiations.

"A European Union without Turkey at its heart is not stronger but weaker... not more secure but less... not richer but poorer," he said at the time.

The previous Labour government also backed Turkish accession.

Turkey has a fast growing population of 75 million, making it almost as large as Germany and bigger than Britain or France.

It would be the second largest EU member state and likely shift the balance of power in Europe.

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump spent most of his campaign money on hats and t-shirts; His next biggest payment was for flights on his personal 757 jet*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H65-KSK1-JCJY-G1WK-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 20, 2015 Tuesday 9:15 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 281 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

Donald Trump spent most of his campaign moneyon hats,stickers and t-shirts, according to his latest campaign finance report.

Mr Trump's campaign spent$825,000 (£534,189) on the logo-emblazoned items sold on his website and routinely thrown to supporters at his campaign events,

Reuters

reports.

Read more

Anthony Mackie backs Donald Trump for president

The hats used in his campaign mostly feature the slogan "Make America Great Again".

His next biggest item was for flights on his personal 757 jet, on which he spent more than $700,000 (£453,323).

In typical presidential campaigns, top expenditures are usually payroll, mailings and consultations.

However, those items did not feature largely on Mr Trump's report.

Read more

Donald Trump supporter 'spits' on immigration activist at rally

Donald Trump to host Saturday Night Live again

Donald Trump says he sometimes carries a gun

Donald Trump brings campaign against windfarms to UK Supreme Court

Donald Trump will deport ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** 'because they might be Isis'

MrTrump's campaign raised nearly $4 million in the third quarter. In total, the campaign has raised $5.8 million and spent $5.6 million.

Despite proclamations that he would self-fund his candidacy, Mr Trump still raked in unsolicited donations from nearly 74,000 people, who gave an average of $50.46.

By contrast, Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton raised $30 million in the third quarter. Jeb Bush, once the Republican favorite, raised $13.4 million.

Additional reporting by Reuters.

**Load-Date:** October 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Ikea introduces flat-pack furniture that can easily be put together without any tools; The design enables furniture parts to snap together 'like a jigsaw puzzle'for easier and quicker assembly*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N23-C171-JCJY-G4S0-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 9, 2017 Thursday 12:59 PM GMT

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**Section:** BUSINESS NEWS; Version:1

**Length:** 251 words

**Byline:** Zlata Rodionova

**Body**

The frustrating ritual of assembling Ikeafurniture is set to become a thing of the past.

Ikea has developed a new range of productsto simplify the assembly of flat-pack furniture by eliminating the need for bolts, screw drivers and allen keys.

The Swedish retailer designed a new type of joint, called wedge towel, which enables furniture parts to snap together "like a jigsaw puzzle" for easier and quicker assembly.

Read more

Ikea is planning to sell a line of rugs made by ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

The companyfirst tested the new click-together system five years ago across its Regissör storage products.

It now intends to roll out the designacross its entire furniture range, starting with the wooden Lisabo table, which is currently on sale.

The furniture's panels come with small ribbed protrusions, which easily slot into pre-drilled holes in the panels they're meant to connect to.

In an interview with design magazine

Dezeen

Ikea's range and supply chief Jesper Brodin claimed that he was able to put together a table that normally takes him 24 minutes in three minutes.

"We're constantly looking for new ways to innovate in product design to make the assembly and disassembly of our products easier for our customers," an Ikea spokesperson told

the Independent

.

" In the future we will also look into how we can use the wedge dowel design in more of our products but currently it is only being used in a small number of ranges such as Reggisor, Valje and Lisabo," Ikea added.

**Load-Date:** March 9, 2017

**End of Document**



[*UN attacks Turkey's deal with EU; The deal between the EU and Turkey is intended to control the chaotic influx of illegal migrants, but sending vulnerable people back could violate international law, the UN says. By LAURA PITEL in Istanbul and LEO CENDROWICZ in Brussels Amnesty says EU plan is 'short-sighted and inhumane'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J86-B5X1-JCS0-D3Y9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

March 9, 2016 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 19

**Length:** 1604 words

**Byline:** LAURA PITEL in Istanbul and LEO CENDROWICZ in Brussels

**Body**

The United Nations has voiced grave concerns about plans for "blanket returns" of refugees to Turkey as part of a radical deal aimed at saving the European Union's commitment to open borders.

In the early hours of yesterday, Donald Tusk, head of the European Council, emerged after 12 hours of talks with EU leaders in Brussels to announce a "breakthrough" in tackling Europe's refugee crisis. "The days of irregular migration to Europe are over," he said.

That boldness appeared premature, as Hungary threatened a veto while the UN and human rights groups warned that the proposed deal with Turkey could be both illegal and immoral.

The deal with Turkey, spearheaded by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu at the EU summit in Brussels, aims to restore order by halting chaotic illegal migration in exchange for a system of quotas to relocate people to Europe in an orderly fashion. Alarmed that the numbers of arriving migrants have shown no sign of falling, countries along the route into western Europe last month began closing their borders, triggering a backlog in Greece. Slovenia said last night it would no longer allow migrants to transit through the country, bar "humanitarian" exceptions.

The deal quickly ran into controversy over a plan to forcibly return those arriving in Greece on rubber dinghies, sending them straight back to Turkey. For every Syrian returned to Turkey, Europe would resettle one Syrian already living in Turkey. Those who attempted the illegal crossing would be sent to the "back of the queue".

The pushback against the proposal was led by the UN, which warned that it could violate international and European law to return vulnerable people to Turkey, where some nationalities lacked legal protection. Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said: "I am deeply concerned about any arrangement that would involve the blanket return of anyone from one country to another without spelling out the refugee protection safeguards under international law."

Amnesty International said that the mass return of people would be a "death blow to the right to seek asylum" and described the proposals as "alarmingly short-sighted and inhumane". The group pointed out that the arrangement "would make every resettlement place offered to a Syrian in the EU contingent upon another Syrian risking their life by embarking on the deadly sea route to Greece".

Others said the arrangement incentivised Ankara to allow smugglers to continue to operate. Further questions remain about how authorities might force people who had paid hundreds of dollars and taken huge risks to return if they resisted deportation, and about the eligibility criteria for relocation to Europe.

Elizabeth Collett, director of the Migration Policy Institute Europe, said the smugglers would find other routes into the heart of Europe. "We are talking about a multi-billion-dollar smuggling business that is capable of adapting to different circumstances," she said.

EU leaders were bounced into the deal after being blindsided by brinkmanship from Turkey. Having expected to rubber-stamp an agreement crowned by Euro 3bn in aid for refugees, Mr Davutoglu arrived in Brussels demanding twice that sum. He also insisted on a speedier timetable for giving Turkish nationals visa-free travel into the EU's passport-free Schengen zone, and the resuscitation of Turkey's dormant EU membership bid.

The deal first emerged at a dinner on Sunday night at the Turkish embassy in Brussels with Mr Davutoglu, Ms Merkel and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

The scheme undermined Mr Tusk, who last week laid the groundwork for a different deal under which Turkey would have agreed to take back refugees intercepted in the Aegean. It prompted frustration that Mr Tusk's careful diplomacy over the previous weeks appeared to have been undone by Ms Merkel in just one night.

Turkey, meanwhile, was accused of exploiting Europe's desperation to extract maximum gain. Mr Davutolgu insisted that Turkey, which is already home to 2.5 million refugees, was simply seeking burden-sharing.

The EU now has just over a week to hammer out the final details before yet another summit at the end of next week, when Turkey is expected to formally confirm the deal.

The agreement was forged against a backdrop of deteriorating freedom of expression in Turkey. Last week, the state took control of a newspaper linked to an arch-foe of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who is accused of plotting to overthrow the government.

Even as leaders thrashed out the details on Monday night, the crackdown was widened with the seizure of Cihan News Agency, which is owned by the same company as Zaman newspaper.

The clampdown prompted widespread criticism. The former Liberal Democrat leader Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon told The Independent that Europe's policy toward Turkey's hopes of EU accession was "crazy". He said: "The irony is that when Turkey was actually reforming, we refused to let it in and now it's going in the opposite direction."

While Mr Tusk said that Europe "cannot stay indifferent" to concerns about press freedom, he and EU leaders were unwilling to allow the deal to be derailed amid growing domestic pressure to tackle a crisis that has strained EU cohesion to the limits.

Mr Erdogan is determined to bring in a new constitution that would grant him executive powers. To do so, he will either have to win the support of 14 opposition MPs to put the proposal to a referendum or call a fresh election in the hope of securing the right numbers.

Howard Eissenstat, a Turkey expert at St Lawrence University in New York State, said that being seen to have forced Europe to play on Ankara's terms would be a political boost for the President. The deal would be depicted, he said, as "Turkey standing up to Europe and forcing Europe to come to terms with it even on an equal level".

**WOMEN'S DAY**

**ERDOGAN'S VIEW**

Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan used a speech on International Women's Day to declare that "a woman is above all else a mother". The President also criticised contraception, saying that it was used to "dry up our nation".

Mr Erdogan has repeatedly called on Turkish women to have at least three children. He has described abortion as "murder" and condemned birth by Caesarean section as "unnatural".

**Q&A**

**CAN TURKEY BE TRUSTED WITH REFUGEES?**

The Euro 3bn refugee exchange programme being hammered out between the European Union and Turkey would mean that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who land on the Greek islands would be returned to Turkey, while European countries would take asylum seekers currently living in Turkish refugee camps.

Q | Is it legal to send people who land in Greece back to Turkey?

A | The United Nations 1951 Convention on Refugees bans expulsions except on grounds of public order. International asylum rules say all applications have to be properly reviewed, and asylum seekers cannot be returned to a country that does not offer proper protection. "The parties failed to say how individual needs for international protection would be fairly assessed during the rapid-fire mass expulsions they agreed would take place," says Bill Frelick from Human Rights Watch.

The plan could also fall foul of EU rules - Article 19 of the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights bans collective expulsions.

Q | Can Turkey really be considered a "safe country" to return refugees?

A | While Turkey has ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention, it is the only country in the world to apply geographical limitations, so only Europeans are currently guaranteed refugee status there.

While Syrians have the right to international protection in Turkey, this right does not cover other refugees like Afghans and Iraqis fleeing war. The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, says it is concerned that it would leave ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** unprotected and at risk of being sent back to a war zone.

Questioned about this yesterday, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker insisted the plan was legal: Greece had determined that Turkey was a safe country, so the returns policy was legal. But human rights groups say such returns are almost certainly illegal.

Amnesty International says it is "absurd" to describe Turkey as safe. "Turkey has forcibly returned refugees to Syria and many refugees in the country live in desperate conditions without adequate housing," said Iverna McGowan, head of the group's EU office. "By no stretch of imagination can Turkey be considered a 'safe third country' that the EU can cosily outsource its obligations to."

Q | How will the EU resettle ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from Turkey?

A | The plan says the EU will take in as many ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from Turkish camps as it sends back, but it is unclear how they will be taken in by European countries. Angela Merkel said that those returned from Greece would go to the back of the queue, but it remains uncertain how those who are to be relocated will be chosen out of a pool of at least 2.5 million Syrians in Turkey.

Hungary's hardline anti-migration Prime Minister Viktor Orban has promised to veto the scheme, but officials have said it is likely to be a voluntary "coalition of the willing" including Germany and the Netherlands.

Conservative MEP Timothy Kirkhope warned that it risked being "an undeliverable plan at great cost", like last year's scheme to relocate 160,000 refugees, which has so far found new homes for just 660. "Last year's silver bullet was a relocation system that did not work," he said. "This year's seems to be an all-encompassing deal with Turkey that relies on their goodwill, despite little evidence that they have delivered on promises already made."

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Italian MEP wears Angela Merkel mask to European Parliament session; Far-right representative Gianluca Buonanno disrupted a speech by Jean-Claude Juncker*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWF-M8F1-F021-63RM-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 9, 2015 Wednesday 4:21 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 229 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

A far-right Italian MEP has caused stir in the European Parliament by wearing a mask of Angela Merkel to a session.

Gianluca Buonanno, a representative from the Northern League party, shook hands with Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker while wearing the mask of the German chancellor.

Mr Buonanno later claimed that Mr Juncker "does what Merkel says".

The stunt is thought to be a statement about the European Union's handling of the European refugee crisis.

The MEP had previously posted a picture of a man wearing a mask with the slogan "Merkel: ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** for us. African migrants for Italy'.

Today Mr Juncker announced a new refugee quota plan for the economic union.

Ms Merkel has also been at the forefront of accepting refugees into Germany, where more than 800,000 are expected to be welcomed this year.

Under Mr Juncker's Europe-wide proposal, 120,000 refugees would be distributed among EU nations with binding requirements for each country.

"It is true that Europe cannot house all the misery in the world. But we have to put it into perspective," he said.

"This still represents just 0.11 per cent of the EU population. In Lebanon refugees represent 25 per cent of the population, which has just a fifth of the wealth of the EU. Who are we to never make such comparisons?"

Countries refusing to take refugees could face financial penalties from the European Union.

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2015

**End of Document**



[*End in sight; Editorials The Chilcot inquiry finally has a delivery date but we already know its most important finding - the war was illegal*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H88-54S1-F072-411M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

October 30, 2015 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 525 words

**Body**

For most of the past seven years, since it was set up by the then Prime Minister Gordon Brown, there has been little idea of when the Iraq Inquiry would report. More recently the delays had gone on for so long that some were asking, not entirely sarcastically, if it would ever report. The proceedings have taken two or three times longer than the Iraq war itself, and one member of the panel, the distinguished historian Sir Martin Gilbert, has sadly passed away.

Now, the chair of the inquiry, Sir John Chilcot, has told us when the waiting will be over. The two-million-word document - give or take the odd footnote - will be published in June or July next year, more than a decade after the war formally ended. There have been many theories, conspiracy and otherwise, about the inordinate delay. "Maxwellisation", the endless process of cross-checking of amended statements between witnesses, added a complexity to an already monumental task. For while it was right that one overarching inquiry should indeed look at all aspects of the planning and conduct of the war and its aftermath - it was after all the worst British foreign policy blunder in a century or more - that vast remit left the Chilcot team with an almost unmanageable volume of material to examine.

Reluctance by the American authorities to disclose sensitive information was a further factor, as was reticence in our own Cabinet Office. The Chilcot inquiry also had to contend with the existence of other lines of inquiry by select committees and tribunals, as well as taking due account of the Butler Review, the Hutton report and the theories (reliable or otherwise) of various participants, from Tony Blair to Condoleezza Rice.

So Sir John had his work cut out. It may well be that even this gargantuan effort will not answer all of the relevant questions.

The prospect, then, is that we may never understand why we went to war in the ruinous, illegal manner we did. That matters because of the loss of life among civilians and military personnel in the conflict, as well as the injuries they sustained. It is not too strong a conclusion to reach, still without the benefit of any official verdict, to say that the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** can be directly traced back to the disastrous decision to join the US in its invasion of Iraq. Indeed, in a curiously timed interview last weekend, Mr Blair admitted as much himself.

One of the many ironies of the Iraq war - perhaps, given events since, it would be termed the "first Iraq war" - is that the public's disillusionment with intervention makes dealing with Isis and humanitarian disasters in Iraq and Syria more difficult than it need be. Still, the bigger truths about the Iraq war have been known since before it started. It was illegal under international law in that it had no explicit sanction from the UN; it was unnecessary because at that point in 2003 Saddam Hussein had been "caged" through sanctions and no-fly zones; there turned out to be no weapons of mass destruction; there was insufficient planning for the aftermath, which left the vacuum now filled by Isis and civil war. And that we don't need Sir John to tell us.

**Load-Date:** October 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Theresa May refuses to condemn Donald Trump immigration ban*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRK-15H1-F021-63DC-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 4:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 279 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Theresa May has refused to condemn Donald Trump's ban on refugees and entry for citizens of seven Muslim-majority nations after meeting with the Turkish President.

She was speaking just a day after meeting the new President in Washington , where the pair pledged their commitment to the "special relationship" between Britain and the US.

After agreeing a controversial £100 million fighter jet deal amid wide-ranging purges and security crackdowns following an attempted coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Ms May held a joint press conference with Prime Minister Binali Yildirim.

Their talks were overshadowed by global debate over Mr Trump's executive order to ban ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US indefinitely, halt all other asylum admissions for 120 days and suspended travel visas for citizens of "countries of particular concern", including Syria, Iraq and other Muslim-majority nations.

Faisal Islam, the political editor of Sky News, asked Ms May whether she viewed it as an "action of the leader of the free world".

The Prime Minister replied that she was "very pleased" to have met Mr Trump in Washington, before evading the question by hailing Turkey's reception of millions of refugees and Britain's support for its government and other nations surrounding Syria.

Mr Yildirim was more direct, calling the crisis a global issue, saying the UN members "cannot turn a blind eye to this issue and settle it by constructing walls".

"Nobody leaves their homes for nothing, they came here to save their lives and our doors were open...and we would do it again," he added. "If there is someone in need, you need to give them a helping hand to make sure they survive."

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Smugglers offer 'seasonal discounts' to Syrian refugees as oceans turn wild; Sea crossings traditionally dwindle in the winter months, when stormy weather whips up the waves in the Mediterranean*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H5K-GWY1-JCJY-G0VC-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 17, 2015 Saturday 9:25 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 1317 words

**Byline:** Zia Weise

**Body**

Izmir's smugglers are getting worried. But it's not the European Union's plans to shut down their lucrative business that concerns them - it's the arrival of the autumn winds.

Sea crossings traditionally dwindle in the winter months, when stormy weather whips up the waves in the Mediterranean. But several Izmir-based smugglers believe they have found a way to keep demand high: by offering seasonal discounts.

In a café in Izmir's Basmane neighbourhood, a hub for would-be migrants, Abu Fuad, a Syrian smuggler, outlined his strategy: "In the summer, we charged $1,200 (£780) or $1,300 per person.

"In the winter, it will be $1,000 or $900 - cheaper but more dangerous," he said.

Read more

First refugees arrive in Slovenia as children drown crossing Aegean

He added that his network used the same flimsy rubber dinghies throughout the year.

Smugglers usually raise their prices in winter as demand declines. But Abu Fuad, as well as two of his colleagues, hoped that the cheaper cost would entice poorer refugees to attempt the riskier crossing. Several brokers plying their trade in front of Basmane station last week were already offering to transport refugees to Greece for the lower price.

"They say the price is $900 per person and that we'll be in Greece after six hours. That's far cheaper and far longer than we've been told," said Isa, 25, from Aleppo, Syria, who was visibly worried.

A boat arrives on Lesbos, after crossing the Aegean from the Turkish coast (AFP/Getty)

"I don't trust any of them, but if we don't find anything better we'll have to take the offer."

The harsher weather has already claimed its first victims. Turkish media reported that 12 refugees died on Friday when their boat capsized near Canakkale, on the southern coast of the Dardanelles.

Earlier in the day, the Greek coastguard reported that one woman and three children had drowned in a separate incident.

In the summer, we charged $1,200 (£780) or $1,300 per person.In the winter, it will be $1,000 or $900 - cheaper but more dangerous

Syrian smugglerAbu Fuad

On Thursday night, EU leaders agreed on a draft deal that would offer Turkey financial aid to improve conditions for refugees, visa-free travel to Europe for Turks, and would unfreeze negotiations on Turkey's EU membership in exchange for Ankara's co-operation in stemming the refugee flow.

The German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, will travel to Turkey on Sunday for talks with the President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and the Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu. Ms Merkel has suggested that the EU is considering a (EURO)3bn (£2.2bn) financial package.

On the Aegean coast, meanwhile, there is little evidence of the flow ending. On Wednesday, as many as 85 boats landed on the island of Lesbos, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

In Izmir, too, business is as brisk as ever: refugees fill the cafés and hotels, swap Turkish lire for euros and deposit their fares in so-called "insurance offices" that release the money to the smugglers once they have safely reached Greece. Along the main boulevard, clothing shops and even pizza restaurants sell cheap life-jackets and children's floaties.

The smugglers, too, do their business in plain sight. Under the gaze of a dozen armed police officers, brokers approach Arabic-speaking travellers stepping off buses at Basmane Square, promising a safe and speedy passage to Greece. A few hours' drive north, boats set off in broad daylight.

"The police are taken care of," said Abu Fuad, waving at a nearby policeman who turned away with a sour expression.

Read more

German mayoral candidate stabbed by man 'shouting about refugees'

This deal with Turkey is mere wishful thinking by Brussels

Hungary will close Croatian border to refugees 'from midnight'

Refugee shot dead by Bulgarian police near border with Turkey

EU leaders approve deal with Turkey over refugees

Refugees, however, say the behaviour of the police towards them is not as lenient. Ahmad, a refugee from Yarmouk in Syria, who dreams of completing his physics degree at Oxford University, has twice tried to cross to Greece in the past month.

"Both times I was stopped by the coastguard," he said. "And both times I had to pay the police (EURO)350 (£260) to be released with my family." Ahmad was getting impatient. For 10 days, he had been waiting for the smuggler to call with the go-ahead for his third attempt. "Ten days ago, the sea was still calm. But it'll be winter soon," he said. "We have to hurry."

Cooler, windy weather has already swept across the Balkans into Istanbul. To what extent it will affect the sea crossings to Greece remains to be seen.

"Historically, sea crossings tend to decrease in the winter months, but the current situation is so dynamic that it's difficult to make predictions," said Abby Dwommoh, a spokeswoman for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Turkey.

As refugees have rushed to the Turkish coast in a last-ditch attempt to reach Europe before winter, the death toll has surged. In 2014, the Turkish coastguard recorded 69 deaths in the Aegean, but in the past month alone 71 refugees died, making September the deadliest month in two years, according to the IOM.

Greek authorities reported more than 100 refugees dead or missing in the last two weeks of September, as several boats capsized in high winds.

Abu Fuad, who claimed none of his customers had died, blamed the deaths on "irresponsible" smugglers operating in Bodrum. "They put 50, 60 people on tiny boats," he said. One of his brokers chimed in: "We only put 40 people on!" "Fifteen," Abu Fuad corrected him, with a stern look. Later, however, he admitted that his Turkish boss had ordered him to fill his eight-metre dinghies with 40 to 50 people.

$900

The price offered to ferry refugees from Turkey to Greece

"The Turks don't see us as human. They see us as money. This is not a man," he says pointing at his broker. "This is $1,200." For that reason, Abu Fuad also plans to leave for Europe next year, using what he called "the VIP method": a forged passport and a plane ticket.

Abu Jihad, another Izmir-based smuggler, already had his ticket to Europe and was winding down his operation. He had heard his colleagues discuss possible winter strategies, from dropping the price to switching to larger boats.

The weather is worsening but thousands of people continue to attempt voyages to the Greek islands (AFP/Getty)

"The small boats are too dangerous now. Some guys are working on getting big ships like last winter," he said.

However, Ms Dwommoh of the IOM believed that a return of last winter's "ghost ships", when smugglers sent thousands of refugees to Italy on old cargo ships, was unlikely. "The border agencies have done a lot to crack down on that," she said. "But due to the high seas it's possible that we'll see an increase in activity at the land borders instead."

Mahmoud, a Syrian-Palestinian smuggler in Izmir, expected his network's boat crossings to reduce by around 90 per cent.

"In the summer, we had 300 to 400 people a day. Soon, it will be only 30 or 40," he said. But with Europe caught in the largest mass migration since the Second World War, it is unlikely that sea crossings will grind to a sudden halt.

According to the UNHCR, more than 475,000 have entered Greece by sea this year, including more than 153,000 in September alone. In all of 2014, the number stood at only 43,500.

Mahmoud believes that even as the weather worsens, some refugees may try their luck - with potentially deadly consequences.

"The weather will be bad, but people will always go. If governments really wanted to do something about this, they would send big ships to take Syrians to Europe," he said. "I wouldn't have a job, but it would be better this way."

**Load-Date:** October 17, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Tory MP says people should 'stop being so sentimental' about Syrian child refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MY8-4V91-F072-40CD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

February 24, 2017 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 13

**Length:** 694 words

**Byline:** JON STONE POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**Body**

A Conservative MP has caused anger after she urged people to "stop being so sentimental" about ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** fleeing the conflict to Europe. Pauline La?tham, the MP for Mid Derbyshire, said that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who had made it to Europe were not under threat and were in safe countries. She said taking in refugees was acting as "pull factor" and that it would be best for them to stay in their home region.

The comments came in a debate in the House of Commons about the Government's closure of the Dubs scheme on child refugees. The Government had been expected to take 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees in from camps in Europe but instead closed the scheme after 350. Ministers said they believe the scheme was acting as an "incentive" for children to travel to Europe as refugees.

Ms Latham said that reported poor conditions in the camps, such as rat infestation, were not a matter for the UK. "We do need to provide as much as we can to keep the people in the [Middle East] region because what most Syrians want to do is to go home once it is safe to do so. If they've come here they will not be able to go home as easily," she told MPs. "I would like to say that although I understand the sentiments of what people say we should stop being so sentimental and we should actually be looking at what the best thing to do for these families and children [is] which is to keep them in the region - and that's what this government are doing."

The MP's comments elicited shouts of anger from other MPs in the chamber. SNP Chris Law, who was speaking straight after Ms Latham said he was "shocked, actually, to hear the last comments about sentimentality". "Many children in Greece find themselves in detention centres where they're made to sleep in crowded, dirty, rat infested cells, often without mattresses and are deprived of basic sanitation and privacy," he said. "It is reported that some boys are even turning to prostitution to keep themselves alive. If I am sentimental for bringing this up then I am very proud to be so because these are some of the basic facts."

Ms Latham interjected to respond: "If we're talking about Greece and being rat infested and no mattresses, whose fault is that? That's Greece's fault and they should be helping those children." Mr Law replied: "A simple fact of the matter: the world is a small place and we all belong in it."

Labour MP Stella Creasy said Ms Latham should tell herself "whatever [she] has to tell herself to sleep at night". "The member of mid Derbyshire talks about other countries and their responsibilities - she is right, I agree with her, France, Greece, Italy, we should all be doing more. But because one country is not doing enough does not absolve us of doing our bit we could do, and that is the problem," she argued.

She later added: "Whatever the member for mid Derbyshire has to tell herself to sleep at night about this issue, let her tell herself that. Let us not as a house decry these children but stand up for them, because that is the best tradition, that is what will keep them safe and that is what will do justice to this House and this country."

Ms Latham said in a statement posted on Twitter after the debate that her comments had been "misconstrued" but admitted she used a "poor choice of words". "Fear I have been misconstrued in speech. Claimed we must think logically not sentimentally in order to do best for the children," she said. "I meant we should analyse objectively, not that we should not care. I visited Jordanian refugee camp out of concern, not lack of it. Not good choice of words from me but misconstrued - I was trying to say we must think logically not emotionally to best help kids."

In the debate yesterday, MPs from all parties - including the Conservatives - were critical of the Government's early closure of the scheme. On Wednesday, charity representatives told MPs on the Home Affairs Select Committee that people traffickers were likely to benefit from a £20m windfall due to the closure of the scheme as children turned to illegal means of getting to the UK. Others warned of "severe confusion" on the ground among the children over what the UK's policy was.

**Load-Date:** February 23, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Syria: Rescue worker cries with joy after digging for four hours to rescue baby girl caught in air strike; The White Helmets have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for their rescue work*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KVC-YJ11-F021-63VS-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 30, 2016 Friday 7:31 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 234 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

Footage has emerged of a Syrian rescue worker breaking down in tearsafter rescuing a child from the aftermath of an air strike inrebel-held Idlib city.

After digging for four hours, amember of the Syrian Civil Defence, volunteer first responders also known as the White Helmets, carries the girl from the rubble to a waiting ambulance.

The video shows the civilian volunteer clutching the girl to his chest as medics wipe the blood and dust from her face.

She is said to be as young as one month old.

In the video, she appears to cough and splutter as medics place a bandage on her head.

Read more

Airstrikes on rebel-held Syrian city of Idlib kill at least 58 including children

US warns Russia it will 'cut ties' over Syria unless bombing in Aleppo stops

US calls bombing of Syria's Aleppo a 'gift' to Isis

The volunteer then carries the girl into a hospital and takes her to a hospital bed.

In an interview after the emotive footage was taken, the first responder describes how the White Helmets were searching under the rubble for four hours before they found the baby.

He says he could hear her crying and couldn't believe she survived the ordeal.

Graphiq

The White Helmets have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for their life-saving work rescuing the victims of air strikes in Syrian war zones.

Other contenders include Greek islanders who have aided ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

**Load-Date:** October 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Politicians' anti-immigrant rhetoric fuelled post-Brexit hate crime spike, United Nations says; UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination said it was 'seriously concerned'about British politicians'rhetoric*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KJH-J5M1-JCJY-G340-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 26, 2016 Friday 3:53 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 283 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

British politicians'"divisive, anti-immigrant and xenophobic rhetoric" during the EU referendum campaign fuelled a surge in hate crimes immediately following the vote, a United Nations body has said.

BBC News

reports that the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination said it was "seriously concerned" that British politicians whipped up hatred and then "failed to condemn" racist abuse during the campaign.

Immediately following the referendum hate crimes surged by 42 per cent in England and Wales, with a total of 3,076 incidentsrecorded across the country between 16 and 30 June.

Read more

EU Referendum: Surge in anti-immigrant hate crime

Many areas that voted strongly for Leave also posted even higher results, police figures obtained by

The Independent

showed.

"The committee remains concerned that despite the recent increase in the reporting of hate crimes, the problem of underreporting persists, and the gap between reported cases and successful prosecution remains significant," the report added.

"As a result, a large number of racist hate crimes seem to go unpunished."

The report's authors are also concerned about "negative portrayal" of ethnic minority communities, immigrants, asylum-seekers and refugees in British media.

They also raised concerns about the possiblerepeal of the Human Rights Act, a policy confirmed by Justice Secretary Liz Truss earlier this week.

Ukip leader Nigel Farage was widely criticised for unveiling a poster with pictures of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** alongside the caption the "breaking point".

He was also criticised for saying the referendum campaign had been won "without a shot being fired" -despite theshooting of Labour MP Jo Cox.

**Load-Date:** August 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria: Rescue worker cries with joy after digging for four hours to rescue baby girl caught in air strike; The White Helmets have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for their rescue work*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KTY-HBW1-F021-64R9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 30, 2016 Friday 7:31 AM GMT

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She is said to be as young as one month old.

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US warns Russia it will 'cut ties' over Syria unless bombing in Aleppo stops

US calls bombing of Syria's Aleppo a 'gift' to Isis

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The White Helmets have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for their life-saving work rescuing the victims of air strikes in Syrian war zones.

Other contenders include Greek islanders who have aided ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

**Load-Date:** September 30, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria crisis: EU slaps sanctions on several people and organisations propping up Assad regime; A businessman who acts as an oil & gas middleman between Isis and Assad is among those who had assets frozen and were banned from entering Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5FFP-JWC1-JCJY-G0HH-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 6, 2015 Friday 9:16 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 224 words

**Byline:** Lewis Smith

**Body**

Sanctions were imposed by the EU today on seven people and six organisations identified as propping up Syria's President Bashar al-Assad.

Among those who had assets frozen and were banned from entering Europe are a businessman who acts as an oil & gas middleman between Isis and the Assad regime, and chemical-weapon attack organisers.

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, said the sanctions are intended in part to highlight the links between Isis and President Assad as he attempts to remain in power. He said: "This listing gives yet another indication that Assad's "war" on Isis is a sham and that he supports them financially.

Read more:Syrian rebels call for support as they face attacks on three frontsHarrowing stories that show atrocities by Assad's forcesUN calls for organised quota system for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

"These sanctions show that EU is united in its condemnation of Assad's brutal policies. We will continue applying pressure to the regime until it reassesses its position, ends the violence and engages in meaningful negotiations with the moderate opposition."

The people and organisations targetted by the latest EU measure will be named publicly today and are in addition to 211 people and 63 organisations already subject to EU sanctions.

The European Council said the EU would maintain sanctions for "as long as repression continues".

**Load-Date:** March 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump, this is what refugees are running from*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MSJ-S801-JCS0-D02G-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

February 2, 2017 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 35

**Length:** 784 words

**Byline:** SELENA VICTOR

**Body**

From Washington DC to cities across the UK, US President Donald Trump's 120-day ban on asylum seekers and indefinite suspension of all ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the country has been met with alarm. Many feel that the ban has unjustly targeted Islamic countries, dubbing it the "Muslim ban", and the rage directed at the administration is based upon the defence of the liberal values of freedom of movement and religion. But there is something else to be concerned about: this isn't about defending theoretical values, this is about practicalities.

As the director of a humanitarian organisation which works in Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Iraq and Sudan, I know exactly how dangerous life is in the majority of these countries. When the difficulties become too much, these citizens look abroad to find the safety they have been deprived of at home. As Angela Merkel reminded Trump over the phone on Monday, the right to escape conflict and persecution has been enshrined in the Geneva Convention since 1951. Just in case the new administration has forgotten, here is a rundown of exactly what these people are running from when they try to seek asylum in the United States.

Sudan

Having worked in Darfur myself more than a decade ago, I have watched with mounting despair as the humanitarian crisis in the country has ground on, year after year, with scant attention from the outside world. Since independence, Sudan's history has been marked by high inflation, a shrinking economy and protracted conflict. More than 2.3 million people have been displaced, many living in the most rudimentary camps. As fighting continues between government forces, rebels and militias of various stripes, many children are now reaching adolescence without having known anything else. Still more are destined to experience the same childhood - in the first half of 2014 nearly 400,000 people were newly displaced.

Syria

Around five million Syrians have been forced to flee their country, 70 per cent of whom are women and children, with the majority going to neighbouring countries - who are themselves struggling to cope. Meanwhile more than six million are displaced within the country. Syrians remaining in the country have faced chemical weapons and sieges, starvation and horrific attacks on civilian men, women and children. Those displaced in neighbouring countries have put enormous pressures on their host communities, such as Lebanon where one in four people are refugees. In 2016, the Obama administration resettled 12,587 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Trump's executive order has halted this programme indefinitely.

Iraq

Last year, violence and military operations took the lives of more than 16,000 Iraqi civilians, in one of the country's worst years since 2003, a full three million people are displaced within the country. Mosul, the country's second city, was captured by Isis militants in 2014. Estimates have suggested that 350,000 children are trapped in siege-like conditions as the Iraqi campaign to retake the city continues. More than 160,000 have been displaced since the start of the offensive in October.

Yemen

The humanitarian situation goes from horrific to worse in Yemen. The civil war hasn't reached its second anniversary and yet 80 per cent of the population - 21.2 million people - urgently need life-saving assistance. More than three million children and mothers are acutely malnourished inside the country, and the lack of nutrition is causing crippling impairments. In November, my organisation, Mercy Corps testified to the United States Congress that rather than cut back its support of the Yemeni people, the US should be investing further in the humanitarian situation there. Instead of suppressing the movement of Yemenis, we called on the US to pressure Saudi Arabia to lift restrictions on commercial flights out of Yemeni airports.

Somalia

In Somalia, an estimated 350,000 to 1,000,000 Somalis have died in a civil war that has lasted nearly three decades. In fact, the world's largest refugee camp is in neighbouring Kenya - with more than 300,000 Somalis living in the Dadaab camp. With a young, frustrated population feeding into extremist groups, insurgency is being waged within its borders. Life expectancy is in the mid-50s, while an incredible 320,000 children are malnourished.

What we need to remember is that there is little danger to Americans from refugees from these countries - there is great danger to people the world over from a rolling back of hard won and vital international laws around the protection of those forced to flee their homes in fear of their lives.

Selena Victor is director of policy and advocacy at Mercy Corps, a humanitarian aid agency working in more than 40 countries

**Load-Date:** February 1, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Politicians' anti-immigrant rhetoric fuelled post-Brexit hate crime spike, United Nations says; UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination said it was 'seriously concerned' about British politicians' rhetoric*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KJH-CDW1-F021-64TY-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 26, 2016 Friday 3:53 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 285 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

British politicians' "divisive, anti-immigrant and xenophobic rhetoric" during the EU referendum campaign fuelled a surge in hate crimes immediately following the vote, a United Nations body has said.

BBC News

reports that the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination said it was "seriously concerned" that British politicians whipped up hatred and then "failed to condemn" racist abuse during the campaign.

Immediately following the referendum hate crimes surged by 42 per cent in England and Wales, with a total of 3,076 incidents were recorded across the country between 16 and 30 June.

Read more

EU Referendum: Surge in anti-immigrant hate crime

Many areas that voted strongly for Leave also posted even higher results, police figures obtained by the Independent showed.

"The committee remains concerned that despite the recent increase in the reporting of hate crimes, the problem of underreporting persists, and the gap between reported cases and successful prosecution remains significant," the report added.

"As a result, a large number of racist hate crimes seem to go unpunished."

The report's authors are also concerned about "negative portrayal" of ethnic minority communities, immigrants, asylum-seekers and refugees in British media.

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Ukip leader Nigel Farage was widely criticised for unveiling a poster with pictures of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** alongsiode the caption the "breaking point".

He was also criticised for saying the referendum campaign had been won "without a shot being fired" - despite the shooting of Labour MP Jo Cox.

**Load-Date:** August 26, 2016

**End of Document**



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**Load-Date:** August 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Jo Cox: MP's last message warned against immigration 'spin' in EU debate; The Yorkshire MP's final message says:'We can do far more to deal with the pressures caused by migration from inside the EU'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K20-PJ41-JCJY-G4R8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 19, 2016 Sunday 9:58 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK

**Length:** 239 words

**Byline:** Jess Staufenberg

**Body**

The final message writtenby Jo Coxfour days before she was killed warned against what she called the "spin" around immigrationin the EU debate.

Ms Cox, who was a vocal supporterof ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, tackled the "legitimate concerns" over migration to explain why Brexit would not solve them.

She said the Leave campaign wanted toadopta"more liberal" approach to migration from outside the EU, therefore potentially worsening the situation - and added that an Australian-style points-based system had not slowed migration to that country.

Ms Cox likewise pointed out that EU migrants "have contributed £20 billion more to our economy than they've taken out in benefits"and that this money should be better directed to education and health services.

And she finally noted that the free movement of people would on

ly come to an end by leaving the Single Market - a move that she said would have

disastrous economic consequences.

She wrote:

"We cannot allow voters to fall for the spin that a vote to leave is the only way to deal with concerns about immigration. We can do far more to address both the level and impact of immigration while remaining in the EU. I very rarely agree with the Prime Minister but on this he's right: we are stronger, safer and better off in."

Her article came days before a Spanish woman who has lived in the UK for 14 years criticised Michael Gove for "using migrants for convenience" and treating them as "the enemy".

**Load-Date:** June 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian refugee family prospers in Texas despite hostile election: 'We feel like it's our country'; In an exclusive interview with The Independent, Bassam Al Abbas describes life after fleeing Syria andthe arduous process of gaining refugee status in the US - amid an increasingly negative political atmosphere*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M2T-8241-F021-655N-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 31, 2016 Monday 6:22 PM GMT

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**Section:** US ELECTIONS

**Length:** 1223 words

**Byline:** Feliks Garcia

**Body**

Bassam Al Abbas has only lived in Austin, Texas, for five months - and he is thriving.

But the outlook did not always appearso positive for Mr Al Abbas, his wife, Manal Hamid, and their three boys. They fled their home in Damascus, Syria, three years ago, as the country descended into a massive civil war that sparked the largest refugee crisis in modern history.

Mr Al Abbas considers himself lucky to be in Texas despite the current furious debate over allowing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** into the country the country. The topic has ensnared the presidential race and taken shape in state politicsamid the popular nervousness that Isis sympathisers will enter the US, propogated by Donald Trump's candidacy.

"It's the most difficult thing in the world to see your kids hungry," Mr Al Abbas told

The Independent

, speaking through an interpreter in the office of his sponsorship organisation, Refugee Services of Texas.

Graphiq

His home became too dangerous as the civil war progressed. The government instituted curfews throughout the country. If Mr Al Abbas left his house, he could have been imprisoned or killed.

"It was like a war zone. When we say 'problems', when we say 'events', we talk about war," he explained. "How could someone send their kids to school in conditions like this?"

He added: "The Syrian government would see anybody between 18 and 40 who did not wear the Syrian military uniform, that they are going to be the enemy. Every party, every group, they had one policy: If you are not with me, you are against me."

Mr Al Abbas said he and his family fled to Az-Zarqa, Jordan, in 2013. He began taking up construction work through a friend's company, but still there were too few professional opportunities for Manal and himself - and little in the way of education for their sons Amjad, Yaman, and Aman - now aged 5, 10, and 13.

"Life was difficult [in Jordan]. Very few job opportunities," he said. "When I was told I could go to America, finally I see the hope."

Donald Trump has campaigned on the specific promise of banning the admittance of all immigrants from predominantly Muslim countries. With specific focus placed on Syria, Mr Trump has proposed a policy of "extreme vetting" of people seeking refugee status from the country, while warning of a "Trojan Horse" attack from Isis hidden in the migrant population.

Mr Trump's language mirrors that of Texas Gov Greg Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton, who have put forth significant opposition to Syrian resettlement in the state.

In September, Mr Abbott announced that the Texas government no longer accept funding from the US Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) on the condition that the federal department "unconditionally approve" exhaustive screening procedures for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and only accept people who "are fully vetted and do not present a security threat".

Mr Paxton quietly dropped a 10-month lawsuit early October that sought to bar Syrian settlement in Texas, after federal courts rejected similar lawsuits in other states - including Indiana, home of Mr Trump's running mate, Gov Mike Pence.

USA: Trump calls for Muslims to be banned from entering US

Texas received 7,802 refugees between October 2015 and 2016, according to State Department figures. Approximately 1000 settled in Austin between two organisations, RST and Caritas, who supported about 500 each. Seventy-five per cent of refugees admitted to the state have been women and children.

Now, the ORR must allocate funding to a yet-to-be-determined nonprofit organisation after Mr Abbott effectively ended 40 years of the state's participation in the federal programme.

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**Load-Date:** October 31, 2016

**End of Document**



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The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 31, 2016 Monday 6:22 PM GMT

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**Section:** US ELECTIONS

**Length:** 1228 words

**Byline:** Feliks Garcia

**Body**

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The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 31, 2016 Monday 6:22 PM GMT

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**Load-Date:** November 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*EU countries refusing to accept refugees 'could be fined hundreds of millions of pounds'; The measures are reportedly designed to address growing frustrations that some countries are shouldering the responsibility of the refugee crisis considerably more than others*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JP6-6TV1-F021-617N-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 4, 2016 Wednesday 12:48 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 266 words

**Byline:** Siobhan Fenton

**Body**

European countries which refuse to take in refugees may be fined hundreds of millions of pounds, it has been reported.

The proposal is reportedly due to be announced by Jean-Claude Junker on behalf ofthe European Commission today as part of a package of reforms of the EU's asylum rules amid the ongoing refugee crisis.

The draft law willsuggest countries pay "a solidarity contribution" of 250,000 Euros per asylum applicant which it does not take,

The Daily Telegraph

reports

. The money would be paid to states which have accepted refugees.

The Dublin convention, which holds countries responsible for refugees which arrive within their borders, would still apply outside of the fining system.

The potential fines are designed to address growing tensions that the responsibility for the refugee crisis is disproportionately falling on a small number of countries, in particular Greece, Italy and Germany.

A redistribution scheme was introduced to alleviate some of this pressure but has been described as flawed and faltering;as out of 160,000 refugees, just 937 were resettled within the first six months of the scheme. Countries including Hungary and Slovakia refused to participate citing a need to protect local cultural and customs.

The UK would be exempt from the fines due to historically not subscribing to the European Commission's direction on justice matters. In 2015, the UK received 38,878 asylum applications and resettled 1,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** UK under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme. David Cameron has pledged to accept 20,000 Syrians over the course of the next five years.

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Pope: Teens need to stop looking for happiness on their phones; 'Even the latest version [of an app] cannot help you to grow and become free in love,' the pope told a gathering of young people*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JMG-3D91-F021-6218-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 26, 2016 Tuesday 11:03 AM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 235 words

**Byline:** Andrew Griffin

**Body**

The Pope has warned teens to stop looking for happiness on their phones.

People will never be able to feel real joy because of apps, he told a mass being held as part of a weekend at the Vatican City that celebrated youth.

Tens of thousands of teenagers went to Rome as part of the weekend, which saw a range of events held as part of Francis's Jubilee year.

And he warned all of them that they should stop looking at their phones to find happiness.

"Your happiness has no price. It cannot be bought and sold: it is not an application you download on a mobile phone. Even the latest version cannot help you to grow and become free in love."

The Pope has never been averse to apps or technology in general, and he has feeds on Twitter, Instagram and other social networks where he shares news in a range of different languages. But none of those could make him truly happy, he suggested.

The comments came as part of a longer speech during which Francis cautioned people against looking for happiness in belongings.

Read more

Pope Francis takes three families of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** on plane to Rome

"Freedom is not always about doing what you want," he said. "In fact it is the gift of being able to choose the right way."

Francis also said that life without Jesus was like not having a phone signal, during the speech in which he held an iPhone.

"Always be sure to go where there is a network: family, parish, school," he said.

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2016

**End of Document**



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"There are some people I know - they applied since 2014 - and they are still there. They have not made it," he said. "And many other people were denied to come to the US. They tell them that their case was not accepted because probably six security agencies said yes, and one said no. That's enough for denial."

Despite the overt hostility of conservative lawmakers in Texas, Mr Al Abbas says he has found a new home and community in the sprawling state capital. Amid the oppositional climate, the population of Austin has risen up to support the influx of refugees.

"We've seen an extreme increase in support from the community in response to the governor's announcement, which has been very positive for us and the families that we're serving," said Erica Schmidt-Portnoy, the area director for Refugee Services of Texas - Austin. "They have even more support than they've ever had."

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Texas to stop helping refugees because they might be terrorists

Was this the moment Donald Trump quietly admitted he's lost the US ele

Trump peddling 'lies and xenophobia' by linking refugees and Isis

Ms Schmidt-Portnoy said that the organisation has seen the number of volunteers increase from about 100 to more than 1,250 over the past year.

"We see that impact immediately with the refugees that we're serving," she explained. "Because instead of saying, 'We'll try to secure a volunteer to help you with that', we've got five volunteers who are ready right now. ...

"Every announcement that's made nationally or statewide that may contradict the work that we do or the populations that we serve, actually just pushes [the number of volunteers] even higher than it was before."

The first few weeks in Austin proved difficult for Mr Al Assad and his family.But as they gain their footing in their apartment, at school, and at work,they feel more at home and part of a larger community.

"Life has become more normal. We started to know our neighbours, the city we live in," he said. "We found jobs, the kids go to school. Now we just feel like any other normal people here.

"We feel like it's our country."

**Load-Date:** October 31, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian refugee family prospers in Texas despite hostile election: 'We feel like it's our country'; In an exclusive interview with The Independent, Bassam Al Abbas describes life after fleeing Syria andthe arduous process of gaining refugee status in the US - amid an increasingly negative political atmosphere*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M42-JTV1-F021-6221-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 31, 2016 Monday 6:22 PM GMT

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**Section:** US ELECTIONS

**Length:** 1221 words

**Byline:** Feliks Garcia

**Body**

Bassam Al Abbas has only lived in Austin, Texas, for five months - and he is thriving.

But the outlook did not always appearso positive for Mr Al Abbas, his wife, Manal Hamid, and their three boys. They fled their home in Damascus, Syria, three years ago, as the country descended into a massive civil war that sparked the largest refugee crisis in modern history.

Mr Al Abbas considers himself lucky to be in Texas despite the current furious debate over allowing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** into the country. The topic has ensnared the presidential race and taken shape in state politicsamid the popular nervousness that Isis sympathisers will enter the US, propogated by Donald Trump's candidacy.

"It's the most difficult thing in the world to see your kids hungry," Mr Al Abbas told

The Independent

, speaking through an interpreter in the office of his sponsorship organisation, Refugee Services of Texas.

Graphiq

His home became too dangerous as the civil war progressed. The government instituted curfews throughout the country. If Mr Al Abbas left his house, he could have been imprisoned or killed.

"It was like a war zone. When we say 'problems', when we say 'events', we talk about war," he explained. "How could someone send their kids to school in conditions like this?"

He added: "The Syrian government would see anybody between 18 and 40 who did not wear the Syrian military uniform, that they are going to be the enemy. Every party, every group, they had one policy: If you are not with me, you are against me."

Mr Al Abbas said he and his family fled to Az-Zarqa, Jordan, in 2013. He began taking up construction work through a friend's company, but still there were too few professional opportunities for Manal and himself - and little in the way of education for their sons Amjad, Yaman, and Aman - now aged 5, 10, and 13.

"Life was difficult [in Jordan]. Very few job opportunities," he said. "When I was told I could go to America, finally I see the hope."

Donald Trump has campaigned on the specific promise of banning the admittance of all immigrants from predominantly Muslim countries. With specific focus placed on Syria, Mr Trump has proposed a policy of "extreme vetting" of people seeking refugee status from the country, while warning of a "Trojan Horse" attack from Isis hidden in the migrant population.

Mr Trump's language mirrors that of Texas Gov Greg Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton, who have put forth significant opposition to Syrian resettlement in the state.

In September, Mr Abbott announced that the Texas government no longer accept funding from the US Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) on the condition that the federal department "unconditionally approve" exhaustive screening procedures for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and only accept people who "are fully vetted and do not present a security threat".

Mr Paxton quietly dropped a 10-month lawsuit early October that sought to bar Syrian settlement in Texas, after federal courts rejected similar lawsuits in other states - including Indiana, home of Mr Trump's running mate, Gov Mike Pence.

USA: Trump calls for Muslims to be banned from entering US

Texas received 7,802 refugees between October 2015 and 2016, according to State Department figures. Approximately 1000 settled in Austin between two organisations, RST and Caritas, who supported about 500 each. Seventy-five per cent of refugees admitted to the state have been women and children.

Now, the ORR must allocate funding to a yet-to-be-determined nonprofit organisation after Mr Abbott effectively ended 40 years of the state's participation in the federal programme.

Still, reality does not reflect what conservative lawmakers suggest about the admittance process for refugees coming to the US.

"It was really difficult to apply. It's kind of random, actually," Mr Al Abbas said. He explained that when he applied through the United Nations in 2014, seven different US agencies had to review the family's application.

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Over 20 months, the Al Abbas family went through seven layers of security screenings throughout their application requesting refugee status in the US.

The existing screening process is rather extensive, too. First, refugee applicants must supply identifiable information to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - which, for Syrian and other Middle Eastern applicants includes biometrics like iris scans.

Through the UNHCR, applicants are directed to a Resettlement Support Centre.In the case of the Al Abbas family, the International Organisation for Migration served as the RSC, which helped assemble their application portfolio to send to four US security agencies (National Counterterrorism Centre, the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and the State Department). ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** require additional screening from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Fraud Detection and the National Security Directorate.

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**Load-Date:** November 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Amnesty International sets up replica of Syrian home with TV screens showing bombings to highlight plight of refugees; Argentina has vowed to take 3,000 refugees from Syria this year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS2-M9W1-JCJY-G1K3-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 21, 2016 Wednesday 4:42 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 668 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

The explosions are relentless, the sense of danger palpable. And that is from a distance of almost 8,000 miles away.

This week, commuters in Buenos Aires had the chance to have a brief, if imperfect insight into life on the front lines of Syria's deadly civil war. Campaigners who want Argentina to implement a plan to welcome refugees from the war, set up a replica of a Syrian home in a busy subway stop and invited people to take a look. Images of bombings were projected on screens on its windows.

A banner outside the installation along the corridors of the Carlos Pellegrini subway station, read: "To understand what is happening in Syria, nothing better than being there for a minute."

Nairouz Baloul went to Argentina from Syria and hopes her family members can join her (AP)

"We have simulated a living room, which could be any house in Syria and through the windows, we simulated using television screens, the reality seen from a house in Syria," said Amnesty International Argentina Director, Lea Tandeter. "You can see bombings, destruction and the consequences of these years of sustained civil war afflicting the country."

The

Associated Press

said also present was Nairouz Baloul, who fled Syria and found sanctuary in Argentina. She hopes the government of President Mauricio Macri will welcome others like her.

Source: FindTheBest | Graphiq

"If he has the key to unlock this, I think he shouldn't hesitate to open the door to other human beings," Ms Baloul, 29, an English teacher who escaped what she calls a "living nightmare", told the news agency.

One of her brothers was killed by a bomb in Damascus in 2014. She preferred not to speak about it but since she arrived in Buenos Aires last month with another brother, she has become hopeful that the rest of their family will be able to join them.

"I feel safe now, but I'm not totally happy because I want others to be safe as well," she said.

Mr Macri has said he wants to allow more than 3,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** into Argentina. But the plan has stalled, and organisations and members of Argentina's Syrian community are pressuring the administration to keep its promise.

The house is an attempt to give people an insight into life on the Syrian front lines (Reuters)

"I think the Argentine state has the good intention to help in this humanitarian crisis, but it is limited (by resources). But for us, the economic excuse is not valid," said Ms Tandeter.

Foreign Minister Susana Malcorra said on Monday that the government was fully committed to bringing in 3,000 Syrians, though a timeline has not been set.

"This will not happen from one day to the next," she said. "But we have a commitment because Argentina is a country of immigrants, of refugees, and it's unlikely that any of us doesn't have a grandfather, a great-grandfather who hasn't escaped a war, a famine."

Anywhere up to 500,000 people have been killed in Syria civil war, that has not entered its sixth year. More than 10m people have been displaced, either internally or else forced to flee their country.

In the US, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has called for a suspension of Muslims entering the country. On Tuesday, President Barack Obama told the UN that 50 countries had agreed to take 360,000 refugees from countries affected by conflict this year.

There are currently over 60 million people worldwide who have been displaced from their homes.

A thirty-six-year-old businessman, Julio Cesar Montenegro, said he could not imagine living in Syria at a time like this.

Read more

Map: 6 European countries who have built a wall to stop migrants

The Trump campaign is playing the Isis songbook

Amal Clooney calls on UK to take more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***: 'There has been one Yazidi family that gained asylum in UK'

"You don't even think about it. You see it only on the news. To see it from an angle as though you were in the place is something that gets to you," he said.

"It gets to you because, if you have children, just imagine to be in a place like that. It makes you feel bad."

**Load-Date:** September 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Making a drama out of a tragedy: Syrian refugees find catharsis on stage in Lebanon; 'Antigone' by Sophocles is a shocking tale of death and defiance. A group of Syrian women, in exile in Lebanon, are performing a modern version of the play that encompasses their own contemporary traumas*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DTC-3FX1-JCJY-G11M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 10, 2014 Wednesday 6:54 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 729 words

**Byline:** Fernande van Tets

**Body**

"Fortunate is the man who has never tasted God's vengeance." In unison the women recite lines from Antigone in a yoga studio in Beirut.

But this is no regular production. The star of Antigone of Syria is not Sophocles' heroine but the cast, whose personal stories of love, loss and tragedy have been integrated into the 2,500-year-old text.

The 22 women have never seen a play, let along acted in one. They have come a long way from their homes in the refugee camps on the edges of Beirut to the stage of the small Metro Madina theatre, where the show premiered last night.

Initially afraid of their own voices, they have learnt how to be comfortable in their own bodies. During rehearsals a month ago, the group was rowdy during breaks, and had slowly started to share stories. The play has been a therapeutic experience for many.

Just a week before they were set to go on stage, women still wiped away tears during rehearsals, while hearing stories they have heard many times before. "Even if these are individual stories, they speak on our behalf," explained Rim, a 35-year-old primary school teacher who fled Damascus with her three children to "escape the sounds of bullets".

The women's stories form the bulk of the text, woven into the narrative of Antigone's burial of her brother Polynices, in defiance of her uncle King Creon, the ruler of Thebes. He condemns Antigone to be buried alive. Hiba, one of the women, is a modern version of the woman she will portray on stage. Her voice quivers as she recites her lines, addressing the injustice of her fate. The 23-year-old has lost two brothers. One died while she was in Lebanon, leaving her unable to bury him. She still doesn't know here his tomb is.

The Syrian/British production company's choice to perform Antigone wasn't just the female perspective on civil war, says Mohamed al-Attar, who wrote the text. "It's also a story of the individual versus the stage, and the individual versus authority."

Political overtones are never far away, despite the women, who hold differing political views, trying to shy away from politics in the text. Creon is the most polarising figure in the play. "All sympathise with Antigone, but they don't all identify Creon as a classical tyrant," says Mr al-Attar. Fadwa, the oldest in the group, was drawn to the role. "Creon was trying to keep the state standing. He had to sacrifice just to make the country stronger. Because he was the captain of the ship, he needs to make strong, harsh decisions for the bigger picture," she explains of her motivation to embody the character. "I was in a similar position," she says, referring to when she decided to take her grandchildren to Lebanon, against their mother's will, after two of her sons died within a year.

For many, conflict with authority can also be found in the family sphere. "Creon can also be a dominant male figure, someone in the family," explains Mr al-Attar.

Most of the women's families are supportive of them going on stage, but one has a spouse who is still convinced she is attending a sewing workshop. The group started eight weeks ago with 41 women. Only 22 will appear on stage.

In addition to family adversity, a handful have had to overcome the fact that they cannot read, recording the text on mobile phones and playing it back to learn their lines.

The play offers them a chance to escape traditional female role patterns. Fadwa says she hasn't felt this young in years. "The past 40 years I have dedicated to my kids, to the life of others, not my own. In this project I have found the space to come back to who I used to be, somebody who loves to speak, to write," she beams. It's also an escape from a harsh daily reality. Chatter at rehearsals focuses on the food aid that was cut by the World Food Programme last week due to a lack of funding.

But that makes cultural projects even more important, says Rim. "Because there is lack of basic needs and because that is a huge burden, the time we spend here is the time we can escape and we can share this burden and express some of our pain."

Like many, she fears the time when the production is over. Organisers hope that the women will be able to keep the project going on their own, and maybe even become trainers for other women. "Most of all, it's the chance to spend a few hours every day outside of a tough situation," says Soundous, another cast member.

**Load-Date:** December 10, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: UK to resettle more children from Syria, says Home Office; Britain will take in more children from conflict zones, but will not act on calls to resettle those unaccompanied in Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HYF-P341-F021-64BB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 28, 2016 Thursday 12:18 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 250 words

**Byline:** Charlie Cooper

**Body**

The UK will take in more refugee children from Syria and other conflict zones, the Home Office has announced, but the Government will not act on calls to resettle 3,000 children living unaccompanied in Europe.

In an apparent compromise, Britain will work with the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) to bring unaccompanied refugee children to the UK from Syria and other war-torn regions.

Officials said the exact numbers of refugee children to be resettled in the UK would be assessed by UNHCR experts working in Syria and elsewhere, but confirmed that new arrivals would be additional to the 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** the Government has pledged to take in by 2020.

Read more

Cameron sparks outrage with 'bunch of migrants' comments on Calais

Ministers had said this week that they were "considering" calls to take in some of the thousands of unaccompanied refugee children currently in Europe, who charities say are especially vulnerable to exploitation and traffickers.

However, the new pledge appears to extinguish any prospect of the UK taking in refugees from Europe. Instead, the Home Office a new £10 will be established to support migrant and refugee children in Europe.

Immigration minister James Brokenshire said the "vast majority" of refugees were "better served staying in the region so they can be reunited with surviving family members".

"So we have asked the UNHCR to identify the exceptional cases where a child's best interests are served by resettlement to the UK and help us to bring them here," he said.

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Arnsberg bans New Year fireworks in shelters to avoid trauma for refugees; 'People who come from a war zone connect loud bangs more with shots and bombs than with New Year's Eve fireworks'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HR9-P4V1-JCJY-G11M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 30, 2015 Wednesday 10:49 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 304 words

**Byline:** Serina Sandhu

**Body**

Setting off fireworks inrefugee shelters intheGerman town of Arnsbergon New Year's Eve has been banned.

Authorities fear the loud sounds could have a traumatic effecton refugees who have fled war zones.

There is also concern the fireworks could result in potential injuries.

Read more

One million and counting: Europe reflects on the year of refugees

Europe's leaders urged to open their hearts to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Germany recruits 8,500 teachers to teach German to child refugees

A spokesman for Arnsberg, in North Rhine-Westphalia,

said "people who come from a war zone connect loud bangs more with shots and bombs than with New Year's Eve fireworks," adding that

the sale of rockets and firecrackers to residents of refugee shelters had been prohibited.

Signs informing people about the ban have been placed at the shelters.

The Arnsberg fire brigade also suggested people should consider not launching any fireworks "to avoid reawakening memories in people who have fled war and conflict of the horrors that threatened them".

Commenting on the ban, Dr Joachim Bauer, a psychotherapist from the University Medical Centre inFreiburg,

told Deutsche Welle

: "On experiencing stimuli that played a role in trauma, such as images, smells and sounds, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) such as re-experiencing the traumatic situation, anxiety, panic, shock or freezing can be re-triggered."

"For this reason it seems sensible to prohibit the customary New Year's fireworks in refugee shelters and the surrounding areas," said Dr Bauer.

Last year, people in Germany spent 120 million Euros (£89 million) on fireworks to celebrate the New Year.

Additional reporting by agencies

**Load-Date:** December 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Making a drama out of a tragedy: Syrian refugees find catharsis on stage in Lebanon; 'Antigone' by Sophocles is a shocking tale of death and defiance. A group of Syrian women, in exile in Lebanon, are performing a modern version of the play that encompasses their own contemporary traumas*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DTD-W9W1-JCJY-G0C8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 11, 2014 Thursday 9:38 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 734 words

**Byline:** Fernande van Tets

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** December 11, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Eric Pickles joins calls for Government to resettle child refugees; Former Tory minister draws parallels with Kindertransprt which brought Jewish childrento UK before WWII*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HXX-F3P1-JCJY-G3JH-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 25, 2016 Monday 8:13 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 263 words

**Byline:** Charlie Cooper

**Body**

Former Cabinet minister Sir Eric Pickles has joined calls for the Government to resettle thousands of child refugees living unaccompanied in Europe.

Sir Eric, one of the most senior Conservatives so far to speak out on the issue, drew parallels with the Kindertransport, which saw thousands of Jewish children brought to safety in the UK in the months before the outbreak of World War Two.

Immigration minister James Brokenshire confirmed that ministers were "actively considering" proposals to support more refugee children, following reports at the weekend that the Government was close to a decision.

Read more

UK could take more refugee children, Tory minister says

Charities including Save the Children have called on the UK to take in 3,000 refugee children in Europe, in addition to the 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** that the Government has pledged to resettle from camps on the country's borders. The plan has the backing of Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

During a House of Commons debate, Sir Eric said: "We need to remember the enormous contribution that Kindertransport made to this country. Distinguished doctors, distinguished surgeons, members of both Houses [of Parliament] were saved by that.

"I'm pleased the Prime Minister is re-looking at this. He is quite right to try and keep [refugee] children in the region...but we are where we are, there are children out there who are at risk. I would urge the Government to look carefully at this...a month ago we were celebrating that great Christian festival of children and I hope that that spirit lingers beyond Boxing Day."

**Load-Date:** January 25, 2016

**End of Document**



[*John Oliver's advice on how to keep to New Year's resolutions; 'The key to a successful resolution... is managing disappointment'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HSM-BKV1-F021-651M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 5, 2016 Tuesday 4:13 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 283 words

**Byline:** Olivia Blair

**Body**

John Oliver has advised his viewers to "manage their expectations" in order to avoid failing their New Years resolutions.

The British presenter who is the host of

HBO's

satirical

Last Week Tonight

revised a monologue which effectively presented the problem with January.

"Every December, for some reason we decide that next year will be the year that we turn everything around," he says.

Calling resolutions the "exact middle ground between lying to yourself and lying to other people", he says that "statistically" if you have not broken your resolutions by now, "you're about to".

But far from dispiriting viewers, Oliver hoped to instead inspire them by saying "the key thing with resolutions is not how to keep them but how to revise them when you've failed", as the main problem with resolutions is that "we set them way too high".

So, for example, Oliver advises waking up late for work or taking a pregnancy test to get the heart rate goinginstead of paying a visit to the gym. This isbecause real exercise is "hard" so it's best to change the meaning of exercise thus managing the resolution.

Read more

What your new gym doesn't want you to know

John Oliver explains rigorous US vetting process for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

John Oliver takes on the UK tax credit cuts

Oliver, 38, concludes: "The key to a successful resolution is not hard work and dedication, it's managing disappointment and that's it."

Aside from this advice, a recent study revealed framing resolutions as questions as opposed to statements is a more likely way to ensure people stick to their goals.

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Crowd 'cheers' as fire breaks out at home for refugees in Germany; Authorities believe the fire was caused by arson*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J4M-YX71-F021-655N-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 21, 2016 Sunday 3:22 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 334 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

A planned home for asylum seekers has burned down in Saxony, easternGermany, as bystanderscheered, police said.

Police said no one was injured, but a group of people gathered outside, some "commenting with derogatory remarks or unashamed joy" about the fire.

Three people were ordereed to leave the scene after hampering firefighters' work, while two others were detained.

Authorities believe the fire was caused by arson, but they are investigating every possibility, senior regional police official Bernd Merbitz said.

A future refugee home burned down in German town Bautzen today. People outside were clapping and cheering. @szonlinepic.twitter.com/ZiSfZPwgiA

- Laura Schneider (@alauraschneider) February 21, 2016

Geplantes #Asyl-Heim in #Bautzen in Flammen. Schulaustige klatschen Beifall. Erste Infos: [*https://t.co/IW3uiAlX86pic.twitter.com/1iHA4ZZMcf*](https://t.co/IW3uiAlX86pic.twitter.com/1iHA4ZZMcf)

- MDR SACHSEN (@MDR\_SN) February 21, 2016

The building in Bautzen, known as the Husarenhof,was originally a hotel and was being modified to shelter asylum seekers.

Saxony is home to anti-immigration group Pegida.

Read more

Refugees cry as they are welcomed in Germany by mob shouting 'go home'

Migrants responsible for tiny fraction of sex crimes in Germany-report

Merkel urges EU leaders to keep faith with Turkey refugee deal

Deutschland 83 actor Jonas Nay calls on Europe to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

On Thursday, a mob shouting "we are the people" and "go home" blocked a bus carrying asylum seekers outide a refugee home in Clausnitz.

Saxony governor Stanislaw Tillich described the two incidents as "appalling and shocking" and described the perpetrators as "criminals".

"This is abhorrent and disgusting," Mr Tillich said in an interview with the Funke newspaper group. He pledged that authorities will investigate and "bring everyone responsible to account".

Additional reporting by Press Association

**Load-Date:** February 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: UK to resettle more children from Syria, says Home Office; Britain will take in more children from conflict zones, but will not act on calls to resettle those unaccompanied in Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HYG-63T1-F021-602X-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 28, 2016 Thursday 6:43 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 250 words

**Byline:** Charlie Cooper

**Body**

The UK will take in more refugee children from Syria and other conflict zones, the Home Office has announced, but the Government will not act on calls to resettle 3,000 children living unaccompanied in Europe.

In an apparent compromise, Britain will work with the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) to bring unaccompanied refugee children to the UK from Syria and other war-torn regions.

Officials said the exact numbers of refugee children to be resettled in the UK would be assessed by UNHCR experts working in Syria and elsewhere, but confirmed that new arrivals would be additional to the 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** the Government has pledged to take in by 2020.

Read more

Cameron sparks outrage with 'bunch of migrants' comments on Calais

Ministers had said this week that they were "considering" calls to take in some of the thousands of unaccompanied refugee children currently in Europe, who charities say are especially vulnerable to exploitation and traffickers.

However, the new pledge appears to extinguish any prospect of the UK taking in refugees from Europe. Instead, a new £10 million fund will be established to support migrant and refugee children in Europe.

Immigration minister James Brokenshire said the "vast majority" of refugees were "better served staying in the region so they can be reunited with surviving family members".

"So we have asked the UNHCR to identify the exceptional cases where a child's best interests are served by resettlement to the UK and help us to bring them here," he said.

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*More than 200 refugee homes burned or attacked in Germany; Culprits have used Molotov cocktails in their attacks*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HJF-BVD1-JCJY-G4MT-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 7, 2015 Monday 5:26 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 307 words

**Byline:** Jess Staufenberg

**Body**

Refugee homes have been attacked more than 200 times in Germany - with only four culprits arrestedto date.

The country, which has led the humanitarian response to the refugee crisis, has recorded 222 attacks on homes but only a five-per-cent conviction rate.

Arson attacks in particular are a "dangerous mass phenomenon", according to Zeit Online, which analysed government figures.

The findings come after it emergedGermany registered more than 900,000 new asylum seekers in the first 11 months of the years, the BBCreported.

More than a million asylum seekers are on course to settle in the EU nation by the end of 2015, with the current figure at 964,574.

This number is less than one per cent of Germany's overall population.

David Cameron, meanwhile, has said the UK will live up to its "moral responsibility" by taking in 4,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** a year for five years.

Attacks on refugee homes in Germany have risen sharply, with two arson attacks recorded in January rising to 20 in October, and 16 in November.

Almost half the attacks were directed at homes where people were living inside, Zeit Online reported.

Read more

UK Pegida leader struggles to explain why radical Islam is a threat

EDL founder Tommy Robinson addresses Pegida anti-Islam rally

Anti-Islamic group Pegida not welcome in Newcastle

Because attackers were targeting homes at night - often throwing Molotov cocktails from moving cars or heavy stones at windows - police say they are difficult to catch.

But a lack of police officers, particularly in eastern parts of Germany, has also beenblamed.

In the last year, right-winganti-Islamgroup Pegida - "Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the Occident" - has held a number of demonstrations in Germany.

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*War in Syria: Fighters from rival groups given safe passage to borders; The United Nations and foreign governments have tried to broker local ceasefires and safe passage as steps towards the goal of ending Syria's civil war*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HPY-3M31-JCJY-G2X0-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 28, 2015 Monday 6:41 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 271 words

**Byline:** Suleiman Al-Khalidi

**Body**

Several hundred fighters and civilians were evacuated from two besieged areas in Syria today under a deal between warring parties backed by the United Nations.

At least 130, mostly wounded, rebel fighters left the town of Zabadani for the nearby Lebanese border at the same time as 350 fighters and civilians from pro-government besieged Shia towns in north-western Syria headed for the Turkish border.

Read more

Ethnic cleansing is leading to a partition of the Middle East

Under the deal, the fighters from the Islamist Ahrar al-Sham group and other local Syrian rebel factions holed up in Zabadani for months have been promised safe passage to Beirut airport and then on to Turkey. At the same time, families and fighters in two besieged Shia towns in the mainly rebel-held north-western province of Idlib were heading to Turkey and were then due to fly to Beirut.

Zabadani was one of the rebels' last strongholds along the border. Before the outbreak of the Syrian conflict it had also formed part of a supply route for weapons sent by Syria to the Lebanese Shia militant group Hezbollah.

Read more

Russia releases footage of Syrian air strikes on 'Isis oil targets'

No end in sight for terrorism or the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** fleeing to safety

Syrian crisis: Yarmouk refugee camp evacuation 'halted'

The United Nations and foreign governments have tried to broker local ceasefires and safe passage as steps towards the goal of ending Syria's civil war, in which more than 250,000 people have been killed since 2011.

Reuters

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Lesbos detention centre whitewashed amid last-minute preparations for Pope's visit; The refugee camp at Moria was turned into a detention centre as part of the EU-Turkey deal, with 2,900 people trapped inside*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJ4-RR61-JCJY-G34S-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 15, 2016 Friday 1:14 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 759 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

A detention centre for asylum seekers in Greece is being urgently spruced up ahead of a visit by the Pope as thousands of people remain trapped inside, waiting to find out if they will be sent back to Turkey.

Workers were dispatched to whitewash the wall surrounding Moria, a former refugee camp on the island of Lesbos, while others painted fences, cleared litter and moved stray tents.

The last-minute efforts on Friday came ahead of Pope Francis' arrival tomorrow with a delegation of Catholic and Orthodox leaders.

#Lesbos #MoriaCamp Avant la visite du #pape, coup de peinture pour rendre la misère moins misérable @[*iTELE@Pontifexpic.twitter.com*](mailto:iTELE@Pontifexpic.twitter.com)/BQ5PJjA69p

- Martin Cangelosi (@MartinCangelosi) April 15, 2016

Sacha Myers, who is working inside Moria with Save the Children, told

The Independent

that the now "very white" wall was not a priority for the families living inside Moria.

Read more

A tale of two refugee camps on Lesbos

EU continues to deport refugees from Lesbos to Turkey

Hope turns to despair as Lesbos refugee camp becomes open-air prison

"We hope the improvements continue but they don't change the fact that we have still got thousands of people locked inside this detention centre with no idea how long they were be here," she said.

"The camp was built to hold 2,000 people and now there are 2,900. Families are living on top of each other, there is absolutely no privacy.

"We're seeing a real deterioration in conditions."

Ms Myers, a communications and media manager for the charity, said she had met Iraqi and Syrian mothers whose babies were ill with diarrhoea and fever amid declining hygiene.

The Moria detention centre on Lesbos island, Greece, on 15 April 2016. (AP)

"Some people are aware of the Pope's visit," she added. "They really want him to help them and understand their issues."

Save the Children is warning that child refugees are being held in appalling conditions at the centre, where they report illness, fights and theft.

Charity workers described dirty rooms without enough beds, where children are denied legal services and basic support despite concerns for their mental and physical wellbeing.

High-profile visits by Angelina Jolie, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and Labour MP Yvette Cooper, among others, have done little to improve the situation in Moris.

It was set up aslast year as one of two refugee camps in Lesbos,but on 20 March the gates were locked as it was turned into a detention centre as part of the controversial EU-Turkey deal.

The Pope will be joined byleaders of the Catholic and Orthodox churches as he tours L

esbos, which has seen the highest number of refugees arrive out of any island in Europe.

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

After visiting Moria, they will have lunch with refugee representatives and make a joint declaration, before heading to the island's capital for a prayer service in memory of the many asylum seekers who have drowned attempting to reach Europe.

The Vatican said the five-hour visit to Lesbos was purely humanitarian and religious in nature, not political, and wasn't meant as a criticism of the deportation programme seeing some asylum seekers sent back to Turkey.

Pope Francis said he intended "to express closeness and solidarity both to the refugees and to the Lesbos citizens and all the Greek people who are so generous in welcoming (refugees)."

The pontiff has been outspoken in calls for greater compassion and international co-operation in the refugee crisis, denouncing the "globalisation of indifference" during a trip to Lampedusa - another migrant hotspot.

Pope Francis kisses the foot of a man during the foot-washing ritual at the Castelnuovo di Porto refugees centre on Thursday 24 March, 2016 (AP)

Controversy continues over the situation in Lesbos, which is now subject to the 18 March EU-Turkey deal.

It stipulates that anyone arriving clandestinely on Greek islands will be returned to Turkey unless they successfully apply for asylum in the country.

For every Syrian sent back, the EU will take another Syrian directly from Turkey for resettlement in Europe but other nationalities make up more than half of those arriving.

In return, Turkey was granted concessions including billions of euros to deal with the more than 2.7 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living there, and a speeding up of its stalled accession talks with the EU.

Additional reporting by AP

**Load-Date:** April 15, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Sir Richard Branson: Blaming all Muslims for Paris attacks like 'blaming all Americans for past actions of Ku Klux Klan'; The Virgin founder also criticised Republican governors*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HDT-VMK1-F021-60TS-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 20, 2015 Friday 5:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 277 words

**Byline:** Olivia Blair

**Body**

Sir Richard Branson has urged people not to blame the entire Muslim community for the Paris attacks.

Writing in a blog on Virgin's website, the entrepreneur said he was "frustrated" by the way some have passed judgement "on entire populations, based on the actions of a radical few."

He compared those blaming the global Muslim community for the Paris attacks to blaming "all Americans for the past actions of the Ku Klux Klan".

The 65-year-old criticised Republican governors who sought to block ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** entering the country in the wake of last week's attack.

"These positions fuel a collective paranoia that tends to be more interested in confirming existing biases rather than the truth."

Calling Isis a "gang of murderous thugs pretending to act in the name of faith", Sir Richard advocated looking at the causes of extremist violent movements.

He suggested: "More often than not, weak governance, corruption, poor economic conditions came long before things turned bad. Extremism became an outlet, not a source."

Read more

The Paris attackers weren't really Islamic. Most Isis killers aren't

Trump's plans for Muslim 'register' compared to Nazi treatment of Jews

Mehdi Hasan warns against playing into Isis terrorists hands

However, the Virgin founder praised the "sensible humanity" offered by 18 mayors who pledged to allow refugees settlement.

Sir Richard previously expressed sadness at the "anti-refugee and anti-immigrant rhetoric" which was taking place during the refugee crisis - which he called a "moral crisis".

**Load-Date:** November 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Sir Richard Branson: Blaming all Muslims for Paris attacks like 'blaming all Americans for past actions of Ku Klux Klan'; The Virgin founder also criticised Republican governors*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HDT-VMK1-F021-60TT-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 20, 2015 Friday 5:34 PM GMT

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**Load-Date:** November 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Lesbos detention centre whitewashed amid last-minute preparations for Pope's visit; The refugee camp at Moria was turned into a detention centre as part of the EU-Turkey deal, with 2,900 people trapped inside*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJ6-1J61-F021-63C0-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 15, 2016 Friday 6:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 759 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

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The Independent

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Read more

A tale of two refugee camps on Lesbos

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Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

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In return, Turkey was granted concessions including billions of euros to deal with the more than 2.7 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living there, and a speeding up of its stalled accession talks with the EU.

Additional reporting by AP

**Load-Date:** April 15, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Fears grow over refugee safety with EU returns plan set to take effect; A UN official has said the deal to send migrants back to Turkey from Greece could be "illegal" - with protests over the agreement in both countries*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JFK-34C1-JCJY-G0PD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 3, 2016 Sunday 11:34 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 712 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz

**Body**

Fears are growing that Greece will be unable to manage the task of sending back refugees to Turkey under the European Union's controversial migrant transfer deal which is due to be enforced from Monday.

Humanitarian aid groups have warned that the deal will be impossible for overwhelmed Greek and EU officials to implement.While atop UN official has said that the deal to send ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** back to Turkey en masse could be illegal, as Ankara is pushing them back over the border into the war zone.

"Collective deportations without having regard to the individual rights of those who claim to be refugees are illegal," Peter Sutherland, the UN Secretary General's special representative for international migration and development told the BBC. "Secondly, their rights have to be absolutely protected where they are deported to, in other words Turkey. There has to be adequate assurances they can't be sent back from Turkey to Syria."

Read more

Turkey is 'illegally forcing refugees back to Syria'

Refugee numbers rise in Italy as Turkey deadline approaches

More refugees arrive on Greek islands despite new deal with Turkey

There has also been opposition to the move from within both Greece and Turkey.In the coastal Turkish town of Dikili, hundreds demonstrated on Saturday against the prospect of hosting people expelled from the nearby Greek islands, especially Chios and Lesbos.A plan to build a reception centre for returned migrants and refugeesin Dikili is unpopular with locals.

"We definitely don't want a refugee camp in Dikili," said the town's mayor, Mustafa Tosun, according to the Associated Press.Demonstrators expressed concern over the impact the EU deal could have on the economy, tourism and security in their town.

Greece is scrambling to prepare returning the first refugees from Syria and other war torn regions back to Turkey under the terms of the deal struck on 18 March at a Turkey-EU summit in Brussels. The agreement is aimed at deterring them from using people smugglers to cross from Turkey to nearby Greek islands, a route which one million refugees have taken over the past year. Under the accord, EU countries pledged to take one screened refugee directly from Turkish soil for each Syrian refugee returned to Turkey.

Lesbos:Refugee rescued standing atop of sinking boat

Human rights group Amnesty International also believe the deal will have an adverse effect on the safety of migrants and refugees. "In their desperation to seal their borders, EU leaders have wilfully ignored the simplest of facts: Turkey is not a safe country for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***," John Dalhuisen, Amnesty's Europe and central Asia director said.

Officials are already warning that the deal face delays as they try to manage the readmission processes and build a new infrastructure for returns almost from scratch. The ongoing stream of refugees continuing to cross the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece means that there is already a huge backlog to handle. The United Nations refugee agency has said it will no longer provide assistance at the detention centers in line with its policy against mandatory detention of asylum seekers.

Greek officials say they need a 20-fold increase in personnel to handle the expected claims. They also have to decide how to handle more than 50,000 refugees stranded in the country, unable to move northwards as Greece's neighbours have closed their borders.

Nor has the EU's deal with Turkey had an effect on refugee flows: an estimated 5,000 refugees have landed on the Greek islands since the summit agreement last month. However, unrest has already spread among refugees in anticipation of the returns, with clashes breaking out between police and asylum seekers at Idomeni refugee camp, where over 11,000 people have been stranded since Balkan countries shut down their borders in late February.

In Idomeni on Saturdaymore than 200 refugees and migrants staged a protest on roadlinking Greece and Macedonia, demanding that Macedonia open its borders. The protesters blocked trucks from crossing into Macedonia, but not passenger vehicles. In a counter-protest, the lorry drivers blocked the road to other vehicles as well.

**Load-Date:** April 3, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Sweden's deputy Prime Minister Asa Romson cries as she announces asylum policy U-turn; 'We simply cannot do any more'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HG9-50T1-F021-64CK-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 27, 2015 Friday 2:39 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 283 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister broke down into tears as she announced the Government's U-turn over the refugee crisis to reducethe number of people fleeing war and persecution from seeking asylum in Sweden.

More than 190,000 refugees were expected to enter Sweden this year after the Government announced its open door policy in response to the refugee crisis.

On Tuesday, Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven said this policy would be reduced to bring it in line with the EU minimum, meaning many would only be granted temporary residence permits.Mr Löfven said the country needed "respite" from accepting such a large intake of refugees. "It pains me that Sweden is no longer capable of receiving asylum seekers at the high level we do today," he told the conference. "We simply cannot do any more."

Åsa Romson became visibly emotional as she announced the U-turn on asylum policy at the conference.

"I'm going to be completely honest," she told reporters. "Recently, we've been having difficult discussions within the party. About the perception of reality.

Read more

I'm a refugee - and if you think the process is easy, read this

Rain is turning Calais refugee camp into 'a swamp'

John Oliver explains rigorous US vetting process for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

"In the last couple of weeks, I've been convinced that this is the best way to help the local green party politicians actually do something," she went on, before bursting into tears.

In comments made later, she admitted the reversal was "a terrible decision", but said leaving her position would have only exacerbated the situation.

**Load-Date:** November 27, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Benedict Cumberbatch 'curses' politicians for failing to deal with refugee crisis after Hamlet performance; The actor often makes please for audience donations following his final bow*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H89-T9K1-F021-61JS-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 30, 2015 Friday 11:24 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 302 words

**Byline:** Olivia Blair

**Body**

Benedict Cumberbatch reportedly 'cursed' the Government during a plea for donations to help those affected by the refugee crisis.

According to the

Daily Mail,

Cumberbatch, 39, made the comments while making an appeal to the audiencefollowing a performance of Hamlet.

During the appeal he reportedly criticised "the utter disgrace of the British Government" for not doing enough to help those affected by the crisis before saying:"F\*\*\* the politicians."

The statement accordingly got "a few cheers" from audience members, while others took to social media to praise Cumberbatch in continuing to raise awareness of the plight of refugees.

Cumberbatch has regularly appealed for members of the audience to leave such donations during his critically-acclaimed performance of Hamlet at the Barbican theatre in London - which culminates this weekend.

Read more

Benedict Cumberbatch makes 'emotional' appeal to Hamlet audience to

Shakira says 'there's a lot of racism' underneath refugee crisis

Jolie: Europe must prioritise refugees over economic migrants

The actor has been an outspoken campaigner for the refugee crisis; earlier this month he said he wanted to sit down and discussthe situationwith Home Secretary, Theresa May.

He claimedthe government was not doing enough to aid the crisis, as the proposal to admit 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to the UK over five years is not enough "when 5,000 are arriving in one day on one island".

He added: "There's just a huge crisis and not enough is being done about what is happening right now."

Benedict Cumberbatch on The Daily Show

The Independent

has contacted a representative of Cumberbatch for comment.

**Load-Date:** October 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron to announce plan to power UK by harnessing Iceland's volcanoes; The PM is expected to launch a feasibility study in Reykjavik on Thursday*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H83-GV81-JCJY-G1MD-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 29, 2015 Thursday 8:19 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 274 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

David Cameron is poised to launch an ambitious project that could see Britain harnessing the power of Iceland's volcanoes within the next 10 years.

The plan would involve the construction of 750 miles of undersea cabling, allowing the UK to exploit Iceland's long-term, renewable geothermal energy.

Teeming with volcanic activity, Iceland reportedly meets around 95 per cent of its own electricity needs using geothermal sources - but its remote location has made exporting it almost impossible.

British officials told the Press Association that the new "UK-Iceland Energy Task Force" had been set up to examine the feasiblity of the scheme and told to report back in six months.

Read more

More than 11,000 Icelanders offer to house ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Lessons from Iceland's 'pots and pans revolution'

Cameron rejects plans for new EU referendum if public votes to leave

The announcement came last night after Mr Cameron held meetings with his Icelandic counterpart, Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson, ahead of the Northern Future Forum summit in Reykjavik.

And while the Icelandic cabling project would come at a multi-billion pound cost to the Treasury, British officials said it could provide a significant part of Britain's future energy security.

Mr Cameron is the first Prime Minister to visit the Icelandic capital in an official capacitysince Winston Churchill in 1941.

He will be meeting with leaders from Scandinavian and Baltic states, and is expected to use the summit primarily as a platform to push for Britain to stay in the EU.

**Load-Date:** October 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Benedict Cumberbatch 'curses' politicians for failing to deal with refugee crisis after Hamlet performance; The actor often makes pleasfor audience donations following his final bow*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H89-T9K1-F021-61JT-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 30, 2015 Friday 1:14 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 302 words

**Byline:** Olivia Blair

**Body**

Benedict Cumberbatch reportedly 'cursed' the Government during a plea for donations to help those affected by the refugee crisis.

According to the

Daily Mail,

Cumberbatch, 39, made the comments while making an appeal to the audiencefollowing a performance of Hamlet.

During the appeal he reportedly criticised "the utter disgrace of the British Government" for not doing enough to help those affected by the crisis before saying:"F\*\*\* the politicians."

The statement accordingly got "a few cheers" from audience members, while others took to social media to praise Cumberbatch in continuing to raise awareness of the plight of refugees.

Cumberbatch has regularly appealed for members of the audience to leave such donations during his critically-acclaimed performance of Hamlet at the Barbican theatre in London - which culminates this weekend.

Read more

Benedict Cumberbatch makes 'emotional' appeal to Hamlet audience to

Shakira says 'there's a lot of racism' underneath refugee crisis

Jolie: Europe must prioritise refugees over economic migrants

The actor has been an outspoken campaigner for the refugee crisis; earlier this month he said he wanted to sit down and discussthe situationwith Home Secretary, Theresa May.

He claimedthe government was not doing enough to aid the crisis, as the proposal to admit 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to the UK over five years is not enough "when 5,000 are arriving in one day on one island".

He added: "There's just a huge crisis and not enough is being done about what is happening right now."

Benedict Cumberbatch on The Daily Show

The Independent

has contacted a representative of Cumberbatch for comment.

**Load-Date:** October 30, 2015

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Independent.co.uk

October 30, 2015 Friday 8:25 AM GMT

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**End of Document**



[*Home Office accused of abandoning vulnerable Syrians after figures show just 5% of resettled refugees are disabled; Exclusive: Findings mark'all new low' for Government, says Labour*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P6G-DFX1-JCJY-G14J-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 8, 2017 Tuesday 12:01 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS; Version:2

**Length:** 1875 words

**Byline:** Harriet Agerholm, Daniel Kraemer

**Body**

The Government's flagship refugee programme is under fire for failing to accommodate the most vulnerable people fleeing the Syrian War.

Exclusive figures obtained by

The Independent

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Labour said the findings marked an "all new low" for the Government, claiming that the Home Office's treatment of refugees contradicted British values.

Hussein

, Syrian refugee, tells of horror of losing his home and his leg

Local council workers complained that central government was taking a "one size fits all" approach to refugee placement, with little consideration of how to accommodate complex needs.

Meanwhile, councils were accused of providing "shopping lists" of the kinds of families they wanted that excluded the most at-risk groups.

Figures released by 251 councils under freedom of information laws show that 5,529 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** were resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Programme (VPRP) between January 2014 and April this year. Of those 288, or 5.2 per cent, were registered as disabled.

Yet the World Health Organisation calculates that 15 per cent of people worldwide have a disability - and the proportion is higher among those fleeing conflict.

Handicap International estimates around 22 per cent of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Lebanon and Jordan have serious impairments. The organisation found that 80 per cent of significant injuries were a result of the Syrian war.

Those not resettled in Britain and other European countries remain in camps and cities in Syria's neighbour states, including Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Turkey, where UN human rights expertswarndisabled refugees face inadequate access to essential services and medical care.

Disabled refugees per capita by local authority:

TheVPRP- which commits the Government to taking in 20,000 refugees by 2020 -was set up in 2014 primarily to accommodate the most at-risk groups, including the elderly, the disabled and victims of sexual violence and torture.

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She added that some councils were daunted by the prospect of accepting responsibility for people with disabilities. "When you [resettle] someone with a high level of additional needs it can be frightening. I think a lot of people are quite nervous about committing to that."

In some areas, Ms Calvey said, a severely limited amount of accessible housing meant even councils that were willing to re-home disabled refugees could not.

Read more

Government blocks entry to disabled child refugees

"They can't magic houses up, they can't suddenly develop a whole list of bungalows that wheelchair users can access easily," she said.

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Jazz Shaban, co-chair of Bicester Refugee Support in Oxfordshire, said local authorities were allowed to choose the kind of family they resettled, meaning some councils avoided helping those with the highest level of need.

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Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott pointed to cases where central government failed to take up offers from local councils to house refugees.

Responding to the figures, she said: "This is truly appalling and an all new low in this Government's treatment of refugees, discriminating against the disabled.

"Just over a year ago when Theresa May made her first speech as Prime Minister she said 'a disability or a health condition should never dictate the path a person is able to take'. But this has clearly been a factor blocking the legitimate right of vulnerable refugees to seek asylum in this country.

"This Government's treatment of refugees is simply not in line with British values."

Read more

Refugee murdered by neighbour 'pleaded with council to rehouse him'

Melanie Ward, Associate Director of Policy and Advocacy at the International Rescue Committee said the UK's pledge to resettle refugees made specific reference to supporting disabled Syrians. She said it was "disappointing" that the UK had not fulfilled its goal of catering for the most vulnerable refugees.

"At a time where we are pushing European countries to expand their resettlement programmes, particular attention should be paid to ensuring the needs of disabled refugees are met," she added. "It is vital that the UK recognises that disabled refugees are often among the most vulnerable, and are exactly those which resettlement seeks to protect."

The UN's refugee agency, UNHCR, said "much more needs to be done" to cater for the most vulnerable refugees.

"Reception and integration support is key to successful resettlement through ensuring that resettled refugees are properly received and have the support and services they need to integrate into their new society and live fulfilled lives," a spokesperson said.

The Home Office said the findings were "inaccurate" but was unable to providenumbers that contradicted

The Independent

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A spokesperson added: "Almost a third of the families who have arrived include at least one person with either mobility issues, a serious medical condition, psychological problems or special educational needs.

"Given the hardships that they have faced, the reality is that the refugee families we resettle are all vulnerable, for a number of different reasons. How we place each family is carefully considered on a case by case basis - in collaboration with local authorities and the UNHCR - taking into account all relevant information."

Fleeing the civil war on crutches: 'It was a tragedy living in Lebanon'

Refugees with disabilities in countries surrounding Syria live in particularly poor conditions, since they struggle to access healthcare and other support, human rights organisations have reported.

One disabled Syrian man

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Mr Ejrf now lives in Coventry with his wifeand their four children. He visits the GP every month and gets the medication he needs.

When he first arrived in the UK, he wanted to get a driving licence, but now he says he is "thrilled" with his electric wheelchair.

**Load-Date:** August 8, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Neo-Nazi rally takes over Brandenberg Gate; A rally organised by far-right group, 'Baergida', scuffled with authorities and were met by counter-protesters in Berlin*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW7-N331-F021-6117-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 8, 2015 Tuesday 3:28 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 288 words

**Byline:** Megan Townsend

**Body**

On Monday, anti-Islam protesters marched from Berlin Main Station to Brandenberg Gate, as the far-right group 'Baergida' called on officials to take in less refugees and prevent the 'Islamification' of Germany and Europe.

'Bergida' is the Berlin branch of anti-immigration group 'Pergida', which have organised similar rallies in the past year nationwide.

Watch the demonstration below.

Several people were arrested following scuffles between counter-protesters.

Among Baergida's Neo-Nazi flags and symbols were also Israeli flags being carried by a number of supporters during the rally. Onlookers witnessed Nazi salutes, flags with pro-Nazi phrases like "Wir für Deutschland, Wir sind Das Volk" (translated to We for Fermany, We are the people).

Aufzüge, wie dieser... im Regierungsviertel... #baergida#merkelschweigt#nobä[*rgida@nopegida\_berlinpic.twitter.com*](mailto:rgida@nopegida_berlinpic.twitter.com)/Og8hxHej1V- Daniel Lücking (@DanielLuecking) August 24, 2015

Tensions rise as big right wing demonstration by Bärgida group moves through #Berlin city center right now pic.twitter.com/ADMVGfQlob- Anne Hertzum Alling (@AnneHAlling) September 7, 2015

Germany has seen several anti-Islam rallies this year, many taking place this week as German chancellor Angela Merkel confirmed the country would suspend the Dublin regulation, and will commit to taking in 500,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Theo Schneider, a journalist at the protest told The Independent that Baergida marches have become regular occurrences: "They march from Berlin Main Station to Brandenburg Gate every Monday."

Mr Schenider describes the group as "a small group of far-right hooligans, shouting slogans to and insulting the counter-protesters; it is rare that they are blocked".

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Britain could take 20,000 refugees this year and children will not be deported at 18 - David Cameron insists; PM said there was 'no limit' on the number of Syrians the UK could take in by the end of this year, but No. 10 made clear it would not exceed 20,000*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWF-4C61-JCJY-G0H6-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 10, 2015 Thursday 7:37 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 218 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

Britain could take in as many as 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** this year, David Cameron has suggested as he insisted children will not be deported when they turn 18.

The Prime Minister told MPs this afternoon that there was "no limit" on the number of Syrians that could be accepted by the end of 2015, but Number 10 sources made clear that the 20,000 figure announced on Monday would not be exceeded.

He also dismissed claims made by former Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown that the Government's asylum policy meant that Syrian refugee children allowed into the UK could be deported when they turned 18.

Mr Cameron's promise on Monday that Britain would take in "up to 20,000" Syrians by 2020 led to criticism that he was not doing enough to help a growing refugee crisis, with critics saying 4,000 a year paled into comparison to other European neighbours.

Germany's deputy leader yesterday said his country could cope with more than 500,000 a year.

Mr Cameron, speaking at Prime Minister's Questions, told the Commons: "We've committed to taking 20,000 people, I want us to get on with that, there's no limit on the amount of people that could come in the first year.

"We have to go to the camps, find the people, make sure they get housed, we have to find schools for the children."

The refugee crisis - in pictures

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Home Office accused of abandoning vulnerable Syrians after figures show just 5% of resettled refugees are disabled; Exclusive: Findings mark'all new low' for Government, says Labour*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P6F-7S41-JCJY-G2XS-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 8, 2017 Tuesday 12:01 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS; Version:1

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**Load-Date:** August 8, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Appeal for 10,000 private landlords to house refugees; Refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWT-DFG1-F072-436M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 11, 2015 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 12

**Length:** 284 words

**Byline:** JAMIE MERRILL

**Body**

Thousands of private landlords will need to step forward to provide accommodation for refugees if the Government is to have any hope of resettling up to 20,000 refugees, campaigners have warned.

Citizens UK is calling for 10,000 private landlords to provide quality housing for refugees after a U-Turn by David Cameron expanded a Government scheme for resettling vulnerable refugees to take 20,000 in five years.

Under the existing Home Office scheme, more than a dozen councils have already made offers to resettle ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** or have already been doing so. However, Citizens UK is warning that local councils "desperately need landlords" to agree to help house new arrivals. George Gabriel, a campaigner with a coalition of faith groups and grassroots activists, said an "outpouring of support from the public" had encouraged local authorities to act, but that there was a critical shortage of suitable accommodation.

The pressure group is calling for landlords to offer family-sized rental properties on three-year tenancies to provide "stable" accommodation for refugees. Crucially, landlords would need to agree to rent being paid at the Local Housing Allowance Rate paid, which is often below the market rate in some areas.

The rent will be paid by local councils, who get Home Office funding for the first year, or under a EU scheme for placing vulnerable refugees.

So far, 464 landlords have signed up the scheme, including Ky Le Vuong, 36, a partner in a letting agency who owns several properties outside of Glasgow. She told The Independent: "My family were refugees from Vietnam and if they hadn't been able to come here, I wouldn't be in a position to be able to give back these opportunities."

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2015

**End of Document**



[*MEP does Nazi salute while wearing Hitler-style moustache at Merkel debate; Gianluca Buonanno previously wore an Angela Merkel mask to a session*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H7N-WP11-F021-627V-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 27, 2015 Tuesday 12:17 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 281 words

**Byline:** Agency

**Body**

The European Parliament has sanctioned an Italian lawmaker whowore a Hitler-style moustache and gave a Nazi salute at a debatewith German leader AngelaMerkel present,

The assembly said in a statement that it had fined Gianluca Buonanno 3,060 euros ($3,378) and suspended him from activities in parliament for 10 days. He is still allowed to vote.

During a plenary session two weeks ago, hewore a T-shirt with an image combining Adolf Hitler and Ms Merkel during.

Polish deputy Janusz Korwin-Mikke received the same sanction for using a Nazi salute in the assembly in July.

Read more

Italian MP Gianluca Buonanno 'blacks up' to deliver racist

How a German officer mapped out his own plan for a Nazi invasion

Hitler's stormtroopers 'felt invincible because of crystal meth'

Hitler secretly made the weapons of the future during the Second World War

Mr Korwin-Mikke also referred to migrants as "human garbage."

The arrival of hundreds of thousands of migrants in Europe this year has sparked an outcry among far-right politicians.

In September, MrBuonanno, a representative from the Northern League party, shook hands with Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker while wearing the mask of the German chancellor.

Mr Buonanno later claimed that Mr Juncker "does what Merkel says".

The stunt was thought to be a statement about the European Union's handling of the European refugee crisis.

The MEP had previously posted a picture of a man wearing a mask with the slogan 'Merkel: ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** for us. African migrants for Italy'.

Associated Press

**Load-Date:** October 27, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Waterstones wants you to buy a book for Syria; Hosts of best-selling authors are getting involved*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H1G-D251-JCJY-G2DB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 28, 2015 Monday 11:09 AM GMT

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**Section:** CULTURE

**Length:** 279 words

**Byline:** Christopher Hooton

**Body**

Waterstones has teamed up with Oxfam to raise money for the charity's Syria Crisis Appeal, donating 100% of the full retail price on a host of bestselling titles.

The 'Buy Books for Syria' campaign sees the books donated by their publishers, and encompasses the authors:

Philip Pullman, Hilary Mantel, David Walliams, Neil Gaiman, David Nicholls, Marian Keyes, Victoria Hislop, Ali Smith, Robert Harris, Lee Child, Salman Rushdie, Caitlin Moran, Julia Donaldson and Jacqueline Wilson.

Find out more about our #BuyBooksForSyria campaign to raise money for @Oxfam here [*https://t.co/y2K3wjK7BPpic.twitter.com/2ERl0qvkra*](https://t.co/y2K3wjK7BPpic.twitter.com/2ERl0qvkra)

- Waterstones (@Waterstones) September 28, 2015

"This is the biggest refugee crisis in history - 60m people, world-wide, are displaced, half of them children - threatening both the stability of the Middle East and Europe, and our own sense of compassion, and the value we put on human life," commented Caitlin Moran.

"Whilst the governments of this world still fail to come up with a solution to this problem, I am proud to do as millions of others have, and say 'We see you, we hear you, we will not let you suffer this alone. We promise - help is coming'."

Salman Rushdie added that he is "delighted to be a part of the British book world's effort," while Philip Pullman said: "The cause is so obviously good that anything we can do is worth doing."

The bookstore is hoping to raise £1 million with the initiative, and said that 'all funds raised will be ring-fenced by Oxfam for aid for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and displaced people in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey as well as European points of entry in Macedonia, and Greece.'

Buy Books for Syria kicks off on 1 October.

**Load-Date:** September 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The iconic American leaders who were once refugees; Many people have fled persecution, war or political oppression to create something extraordinary out of their lives*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HF7-M181-JCJY-G4HH-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 22, 2015 Sunday 3:21 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 791 words

**Byline:** Jena McGregor

**Body**

In September, Silicon Valley'sChurchill Clubhonored former Intel CEO Andy Grove with its "legendary leader" award. The tech industry icontransformed Intel from a strugglingmemory chip maker into a microprocessorpowerhouse. Grove hassincedevotedhis substantial wealth andintellecttoresearchon two diseases for which he's been diagnosed during his life-prostate cancer and Parkinson's.

After the videos and accolades were over,Grove stepped onto the stageandasked if he could say a few words. "Let's remember that millions of young people who had the misfortune of being born in thewrong national boundaries are going through all the horrors [that]I had to," Grovesaid."I made it. Let's try in a little way to help them make it."

Andy Grove was born to a Jewish family in Hungary in 1936 (Getty)

You see, Grove-one of America's most admired businessleaders, up there with Bill Gatesand Steve Jobsfor the impact hehad on the tech industry-was once a refugee. Born to a Jewish family in Hungary in 1936, hesurvived the Nazis only to fleeHungary after Soviet tanks rolled in to Budapest to crush the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

Grove is one of many people whohave fled persecution, violence, warorpolitical oppression to create something extraordinary out of their lives. Former U.S. Secretary of StateMadeleine Albrightand her family fledto Americafollowing the Communist coup in 1948. Albert Einstein was a German-Jewish refugee who escapedNazi Germany in 1938.

Film directer Billy Wilder left Germany amid Hitler's rise (Getty)

The film director Billy Wilder ("Sunset Boulevard," "Double Indemnity," "The Apartment") left Germany amid Hitler's riseandhis mother, grandmother and stepfather were killed at Auschwitz.Thong Nguyen, whose family escaped Vietnam in 1975, is now a top executive at Bank of America.

The listgoes on.

Read more

What Americans thought of Jewish refugees on the eve of World War II

Such stories are a stark reminder of one thing that seems to have gotten lost amid all the negativity that current and would-be political leaders are slinging over ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** coming to the United States. Nearly all the focus has been on what the chances are that one of them could be a terrorist, rather thanthe possibilitythat manyof them or their children could become notableleaders.

Never mind that, according to theMigration Policy Institute,just three of the 784,000 resettled refugees since 9/11 have been arrested connectedwithterrorist activities. (Two of those instances were not in Americaand "theplans of the third were barely credible," according to the institute'sco-founder.) Or that the process of screening refugees in the United Statesis actuallyquite onerous,rigorousandlengthy. Or, among other things, that rejecting refugees could actuallyhelp ISIS.

On Thursday, the Housepassed a billthat would require intelligence,FBI and Department of Homeland Security leaders to certify that eachrefugee applicantisnot a security threat. This followed moves by morethan half the country's governors to oppose letting Syrianrefugees intotheir states-with New Jersey Governor Chris Christiegoing so faras to say even young orphans shouldn't be admitted under current vetting. Texas Governor Greg Abbott put it this way in aletterto President Obama: "Texas cannot participate in any program that will result in ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - any one of whom could be connected to terrorism - being resettled in Texas."

Read more

Video: Greek coastguard accused of deliberately sinking refugee boats

The Scottish island where 15 Syrian refugee families will be rehoused

Jews rescued from the Nazis believe in helping Muslim refugees

Syrian Paris attacks survivor defends refugees following US House vote

Muslim journalist shouts down Fox News pundit over refugees

Yet it'sworth remembering that the inverse is also true: What if, in turning awaySyrian refugees, we were to miss out on the oneswho could change industries, upend scientific theory andcreate cultural masterpieces? What if we keep out the next Andy Grove?What if fear, ironically, causes us to rejectsomeonewhose leadership, courage and creativity could make the world a safer, better place?

What we're seeing right now isa pessimistic and reductive worldviewfor leaders,one driven by fear at the expense of possibility. Of course,it is criticalfor our country's leaderstoworry about security, remain vigilant and weigh all the risks. Butweighing thoserisks requiresnot just thinking about whom we might let in, but what remarkable individuals we might keep out.

© Washington Post

**Load-Date:** November 22, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee summit: EU leaders struggle to agree on 'potentially illegal and impractical' deal with Turkey; German ChancellorAngela Merkeladmitsthere are 'many things to resolve', but expresses'cautious optimism'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JB1-8TW1-F021-63SN-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 17, 2016 Thursday 9:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 1144 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz

**Body**

The European Union's planned refugee deal with Turkey is hanging by a thread as leaders meeting in Brussels struggled to agree on how it would work.

The draft scheme aims to reduce the flow of refugees from war zones such as Syria by sending back to Turkey anyone landing illegally in Greece. But it has come under fire from EU leaders and aid agencies for being potentially illegal and impractical. "I am cautiously optimistic, but frankly more cautious than optimistic," Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, said before the two-day summit began.

Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, who helped strike last week's Turkish deal, admitted there were "many things to resolve", but expressed "cautious optimism".

Read more

Cameron must veto this poisonous deal with Turkey

The 28 EU leaders are hoping to settle their negotiating stance before meeting Turkey's Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, over breakfast this morning. Ms Merkel says Turkey holds the key to resolving the crisis as it can seal the main route used by the 1.4 million asylum seekers who have landed in the bloc since January last year.

David Cameron said he welcomed the plans to send migrants back to Turkey, as it would foil people smugglers. He added that because Britain is not in Europe's passport-free Schengen area, it will not offer visa-free travel to Turks. "We maintain our own immigration policy," he said.

Read more

Refugees 'to be sent back within days' if Turkey deal goes through

The deal would mean Turkey takes back all migrants arriving illegally in Greece, while the EU resettles one Syrian refugee for every Syrian readmitted to Turkey. The aim is "to break the business model of the people smugglers" and offer refugees an alternative to risking their lives. The one-for-one plan is a "temporary and extraordinary measure", to be capped at 72,000 migrants.

At the same time, the EU would double an agreed (EURO)3bn fund to help refugees in Turkey and would hasten visa-free travel for Turks in Europe.

Mark Rutte, the Netherlands Prime Minister, claimed the deal could cut the flow of migrants within three or four weeks.

But Dalia Grybauskaite, the Lithuanian President, said the deal risked breaching the EU's international obligations to accept refugees. "The proposed package is very complicated, will be very difficult to implement and is on the edge of international law," she said.

She was echoed by Luxembourg's Prime Minister, Xavier Bettel, who said he had "fears over the legal issues...you can't just put aside the Geneva Convention".

Read more

Angelina Jolie says the plight of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** is 'shameful'

There are also concerns that Turkey is holding Europe to ransom, knowing how desperate leaders are to strike a deal before the spring weather entices more refugees to cross over. "I can't accept negotiations which sometimes look like they are a form of blackmail," said Belgium's Prime Minister, Charles Michel.

Nicos Anastasiades, the Cypriot President, softened his stance on reopening Ankara's EU membership talks, having threatened to veto the entire deal over Turkey's occupation of northern Cyprus. "There are obstacles, but I do hope that...there is going to be a compromise," he said.

The United Nations said that since the last EU-Turkey summit on 7 March, almost 11,000 people have reached Greece, bringing the total on that route to 144,000 so far this year; at least 96 have died trying.

Q&A:The Turkey deal

European leaders, including Prime Minister David Cameron, are meeting in Brussels to thrash out a refugee swap with Turkey. The deal is fraught with potential pitfalls, with critics lambasting it as immoral, illegal and unworkable. Even European Council President Donald Tusk - who hosts the summit - admitted gloomily "the catalogue of issues to be resolved is long". Here are some of the questions that could derail the deal:

Q.Is sending refugees back to Turkey illegal?

A.

European Union countries are bound by the United Nations 1951 Convention on Refugees, which says all applications have to be properly reviewed, and asylum seekers cannot be returned to a country that does not offer proper protection. This is reiterated in the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights, which also bans collective expulsions. Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel García-Margallo says the blanket return of refugees to Turkey is "illegal under international law".

Q. Can Turkey be considered a 'safe' country?

A.

Only Europeans are currently guaranteed refugee status in Turkey: the EU's own rules say this does not meet its criteria as a "safe" third country for refugees. While Turkey currently hosts around 2.5 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, human rights groups say Syrians are often sent back over the border into the war zone. While EU officials say Turkey will offer proper protection to all applicants, there is little evidence that Ankara will actually do it.

Q.Why are the Cypriots blocking the deal?

A.

Cyprus President Nikos Anastasiades has pledged to veto the opening of five new "chapters" in Ankara's EU membership negotiations unless Turkey recognises the island as a single country. Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974, and the island is still partitioned. Today, Turkey is the only country in the world to officially recognise Northern Cyprus as a sovereign state. This is especially sensitive for Cyprus, which is currently engaged in sensitive reunification talks with Northern Cyprus.

Q.What is in it for the Turks?

A.

Turkey wants the EU to grant full visa-free travel for its citizens by the end of June. There is already resistance from EU leaders, wary of headlines suggesting 75 million Turks can visit any time. "There cannot be any concessions on the matter of human rights or the criteria for visa liberalization" French President François Hollande said. There are also technical demands: Turkey has to meet 72 benchmarks for visa-free access. It currently meets 35.

Q.How long can Greece be expected to cope?

A.

European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans says all asylum seekers on Greek islands will get proper hearings, but that assumes Greece's asylum system is upgraded to cope with thousands of arrivals a week - an questionable scenario. Athens might need hundreds more judges and translators to process the applications. Greece also faces the challenge of removing 8,000 people from the islands in a matter of days.

Q.What if resettlement fails?

A.

Last year, the EU agreed to resettle only 22,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over two years, a figure the UN called "very low" given that 4.8 million Syrians have fled their homes. Even so, only about 3,400 people have been found homes in 10 European countries. "The swap model with Turkey is a non-scalable fantasy," says Jacob Funk Kirkegaard, from the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "It defies belief that EU member states will be more willing to accept refugees directly from Turkey."

**Load-Date:** March 17, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Cologne women reporting attacks rise by a third; Anger as leaked reports reveal the extent of police helplessness in the face of mass crime on New Year's Eve. TONY PATERSON reports from the German city*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HTV-1WC1-F072-44YN-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 11, 2016 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 711 words

**Byline:** TONY PATERSON

**Body**

The number of women claiming to have been victims of a spate of sexual assaults and muggings in Cologne on New Year's Eve rose to 516 yesterday, amid new evidence that police were completely overwhelmed by the violence, largely blamed on foreigners.

The figures were a rise of more than a third from the 379 cases that had been reported by Saturday. Some 40 per cent of the complaints included sexual assault and there were two reports of rape. Police in Hamburg said they have lodged 133 similar charges.

Officers deployed outside Cologne's main railway station where the attacks occurred arrested only four suspects on the night and merely took the names of 71 other possible offenders, according to a police report published by Germany's Die Welt am Sonntag newspaper yesterday.

Yesterday afternoon groups of angry women braved the cold and stood on the steps of Cologne's cathedral, opposite the railway station, to continue the protest against what they said was "utter incompetence" by the police.

"We want those responsible for the sex attacks to be brought to justice," said Laura Stöckmann, a 20-year-old Cologne textile design student who witnessed the attacks. "But so far the police seem to being doing nothing," she said.

They were joined by a group of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who held up placards proclaiming, "Syrians are decent people". But Abdul Rahman a 25-year-old Syrian who arrived in Germany last year, said it was "possible" that some Syrians from his asylum hostel had taken part in the violence.

The attacks have so far been blamed on gangs of predominantly North African immigrants from Algeria and Morocco who are well known to Cologne police as pickpockets and muggers who frequent the station. Many are thought to be illegal immigrants whose asylum requests have been rejected.

Federal authorities say they have identified 18 asylum-seekers among 31 suspects linked to the crimes in Cologne. Also among the suspects were two Germans, an American and others. None was specifically accused of sexual assault.

A leaked police account of the Cologne violence, compiled by North Rhine-Westphalia's Federal Criminal Bureau, yesterday described in harrowing detail what the female victims suffered. "The attackers stuck their fingers through the tights and the underwear of their victims, they were surrounded on all sides, grabbed and fingered," the report said. It said most attackers had "bloodshot eyes" and were probably either drunk or on drugs.

The Federal Criminal Bureau said that such a form of mass sexual molestation was hitherto unknown in Germany but that similar violence had occurred in Egypt on Cairo's Tahrir Square during the Arab Spring.

Police also published a note scribbled on a large piece of paper which had been found at the scene of the attacks with the message "I want to fuck" written in German and Arabic.

Yesterday, a Cologne police officer who declined to be named told the German media that he and other officers had questioned around 100 suspects who were briefly detained on New Year's Eve and discovered that most were ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who had only recently arrived in Germany. "They showed us the documents they get after they apply for asylum," he said.

Similar sexual assaults also occurred in Hamburg, Stuttgart and Bielefeld. The Justice Minister, Heiko Maas, said there was no doubt in his mind that the violence was co-ordinated. "Nobody can tell me that all this was not pre-arranged and organised," he said. Police have yet to confirm his claims.

The Interior Minister, Thomas de Maizière, has pledged to increase the number of police video cameras across Germany to deter future incidents of mass crime.

The apparent origin of many of the attackers has continued to fuel critics of Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door refugee policies, which have enabled more than one million migrants to enter Germany over the past year.

On Saturday, she announced plans to speed up the expulsion of criminal asylum-seekers. She has refused to accede to the demands of many in her party who want an upper limit set on the influx, although she has pledged to take in fewer refugees over the next 12 months.

The Cologne attacks have also been seized upon by far-right and anti-Islamic movements to justify their virulently anti-immigrant views.

**Load-Date:** January 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: 'Economic migrants' and asylum seekers are coming to Europe for the same reasons, report says; The Overseas Development Institute said the division is too simplistic to describe people's motives*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HSM-1NF1-F021-6505-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 5, 2016 Tuesday 2:41 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 776 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Despite the British Government's efforts to distinguish between "genuine" refugees and economic migrants, a report has found that the motivations for both groups to risk their lives in desperate attempts to reach Europe are often very similar.

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) , a UK-based independent think tank urged European leaders to develop a broader understanding of what causes people to migrate in order to respond to the current crisis.

Its

Why People Move

report said: "The evidence reveals that the asylum-seekers and economic migrants often have similar reasons for choosing to make the dangerous journey to Europe and one person may fall into both of these categories at the same time.

As winter approaches, EU needs to act fast on refugee crisis

"One common and crucial motivation is their search for a secure livelihood. Measures that aim to allow asylum seekers in, while restricting the entry of economic migrants, overlook the reasons why a particular person migrates, and are likely to increase irregular migration still further as migrants seek alternative - and often more dangerous - ways to reach European countries."

That analysis is not shared by the UK Government, which has pledged to resettle 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from United Nations camps bordering the country, rather than those who have already journeyed into Europe.

Of the more than 950,000 asylum seekers and migrants who have arrived on the continent so far this year, just under a half are Syrian according to figures from the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR).

Hundreds of thousands of people fleeing conflict and persecution in countries including Afghanistan, Iraq and Eritrea are excluded from the UK's policy, as is anyone deemed an "economic migrant".

David Cameron emphasised the distinction when he increased the UK's quota in response to public pressure in September.

The UK has seen numerous protests both for and against resettling refugees

"For those economic migrants seeking a better life, we will continue to work to break the link between getting on a boat and getting settlement in Europe, discouraging those who don't have a genuine claim from embarking on these perilous and sometimes lethal journeys," the Prime Minister said.

"For those genuine refugees fleeing civil war, we will act with compassion and continue to provide sanctuary."

The ODI's report said that although safety and a better life are often cited as separate motives for migrants, that they usually cross over.

A general view of a shelter for migrants inside a hangar of the former Tempelhof airport in Berlin, Germany

"One person's motives may change in nature and in importance during their journey, suggesting that categorising individuals as 'economic migrants' or 'asylum-seekers' does not reflect the complex and fluid reality of people's experience of migration," it concluded.

Numerous right-wing politicians have claimed that many of those arriving in Europe are attracted by countries' welfare policies and economies but the ODI argued that neither had a significant impact on people's decision to leave their home countries.

"A person's need to leave their home - or flee from it in the face of extreme danger - is likely to be far more important to their decision to migrate than the lure of another country's welfare," it said.

However, the policies and rules of different destination countries, such as Germany's unlimited invitation to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** earlier this year, was found to influence subsequent decisions.

The ODI's report said another factor contributing to the phenomenal rise in irregular migration is the growing "professionalisation" of people smugglers driving migrants through the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

A greater availability of information on the internet and the use of social media was also said to facilitate movement, with a "culture of migration" forming and being reinforced by existing networks.

Despite the onset of winter and tightening of borders in Hungary and other nations making the journey into Europe ever more difficult, the influx of people continues, with arrivals forecast to pass 1 million this year.

The crisis, as well as the unrelated threat of Isis terror attacks, have prompted tighter broder security throughout the European Union but the ODI fears this will only force asylum seekers to resort to increasingly desperate measures.

"There is strong evidence that while tightening border security may change migration routes, and often results in more people making more dangerous journeys, migration policies are unlikely to influence the actual number of people migrating," the report said.

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Amir Khan to take refugee aid convoy to Greece; Convoy to deliver donations from 'generous and thoughtful' Brits*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXG-MW31-JCJY-G32R-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 14, 2015 Monday 11:59 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 275 words

**Byline:** Ian Johnston

**Body**

Boxer Amir Khan is taking a convoy of trucks packed with clothes, tents and other essentials to Greece to help thousands of refugees arriving in the country.

His charity, the Amir Khan Foundation, and the anti-poverty charity, PennyAppeal, have gathered aid and will leave from Bolton, Khan's home town, on Tuesday for the four-day journey to Greece, the Daily Star reported.

"It's heartbreaking to see images of children losing their lives as their families flee from devastating conflict," Khan said.

"What's even more disturbing is knowing that many more lives will be lost unless we provide urgent aid.

"We're seeing stories of people in countries like Germany doing so much for refugees and I know people in the UK are just as generous and thoughtful.

"This convoy is a great way for everyone to do something to help."

We're proud to announce wer taking an aid convoy to Syrian refugee camp in Greece if u can help plz contct @riz1malikpic.twitter.com/vo8DLFCBuF- AKfoundation (@AKFoundation) September 11, 2015

He plans to help hand out aid to refugees on the island of Lesbos, where many refugees arrive from Turkey.

Read more:Saudi Arabia offers Germany 200 mosques as aid to refugeesArsenal to raise funds for refugees by donating £1 from every ticketObama directs US government to accept 10,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Adeem Younis, chair of trustees at PennyAppeal, said: "Every day refugees arrive on the shores of Europe after surviving a horrendous journey with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing. The refugee crisis - in pictures

"The items we can provide will make a real difference, giving people hope. We're delighted to be working with Amir."

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Doctors, veterans and students tweet Donald Trump photos of their 'Muslim IDs' following his call for 'database tracking Muslims'; 'Absolutely.There should be a lot of systems, beyond databases.'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HFM-RFG1-F021-62KV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 24, 2015 Tuesday 9:24 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 784 words

**Byline:** Hardeep Matharu

**Body**

Doctors, veterans and students are tweeting Donald Trump photos of their work identity cards after he said he would set up a database to track all US Muslimsif he became president.

The frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination has received widespread condemnation over controversial comments regarding the country's Muslim population in the wake of the Paris terror attacks.

He told NBC News that he would "absolutely" implement a national database to track Muslims in the US, with such a scheme involving Muslims being given a form of identification which would note their religion.

Read more

Sun front page on British Muslims attracts record complaints

'Proud' Muslim Marine challenges Donald Trump over ID claims

Donald Trump claims eight ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** could be 'Isis'

Mr Trump said: "I would certainly implement that. Absolutely. There should be a lot of systems, beyond databases. We should have a lot of systems."

When asked whether Muslims would be obliged to sign up and share their identity details on such a database by law, the millionaire entrepreneur told NBC News: "They have to be."

This is shocking rhetoric. It should be denounced by all seeking to lead this country. -H [*https://t.co/qs2TJI5spu*](https://t.co/qs2TJI5spu)

- Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) November 20, 2015

The 69-year-old's comments have sparked outrage, with Democratic presidential hopeful Hilary Clinton tweeting: "This is shocking rhetoric. It should be denounced by all seeking to lead this country."

Others compared his plan for the scheme to the victimisation of Jews by the Nazis.

In response to his provocative suggestion, many American Muslims have taken to Twitter to express their views on the subject - with many tweeting the businessman photos of their existing work identity cards alongside the hashtag 'MuslimID'.

One Twitter user even mocked up a fake Muslim ID card "signed by the imaginary 45th President of the United States, Donald J Trump".

@WajahatAli gets his #MuslimID 'signed' by the imaginary 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump. pic.twitter.com/gmNWUldo2V

- Olatunde Bakare (@Backarray) November 24, 2015

@JeanGreasy: Oh, SWEET! Are we doing #MuslimID? Here! @realDonaldTrump I look glowy. Can I use this one? Holler. pic.twitter.com/2ZJ1g0jvHk

- Jean Grae (@JeanGreasy) November 24, 2015

It's time to sign up for a Twitter account [*#MuslimID@realDonaldTrumppic.twitter.com*](mailto:#MuslimID@realDonaldTrumppic.twitter.com)/CPS71kEiKm

- al (@almayyahi89) November 24, 2015

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- Hazami Barmada (@HazamiBarmada) November 21, 2015

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- Shabbir Hossain, MD (@ShabbirHossain) November 21, 2015

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- Arshe Ahmed (@arshe2020) November 20, 2015

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- Zareena Grewal, PhD (@ZareenaGrewal) November 20, 2015

Mr Trump has refused to respond to comparisons of his proposal with Hitler's treatment of Europe's Jews.

The hopeful has said previously that he would send all ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who settlein the US back to their home country if he became president as the US "cannot take a chance" that some of the refugees may be affiliated with Isis.

The country's House of Representatives last week passed a bill to tighten restrictions on Syrian and Iraqi refugees settling in the US. It is still to be considered by the Senate.

**Load-Date:** November 24, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Coalition of MPs want relatives of asylum seekers to be allowed to settle in UK; Current rules mean refugees who are granted asylum can only bring children under 18 and spouses with them*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HH2-N0W1-JCJY-G1GS-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 30, 2015 Monday 10:54 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 708 words

**Byline:** Charlie Cooper

**Body**

Elderly relatives and grown-up children of refugees resettled in Britain are being severed from their families under UK asylum rules, the Red Cross has warned.

Asylum rules on family reunion currently mean refugees who are granted asylum in the UK can only bring children under 18 and spouses with them, and will affect the 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** due to arrive in the UK in the next five years.

Read more

Russia and Norway in battle to repeatedly reject the same refugees

Ministers are now under mounting pressure to reform the rules, potentially opening the doors to thousands more vulnerable Syrians.

Labour's Yvette Cooper and Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron are among MPs backing an amendment to the Government's Immigration Bill, which goes before MPs on 1 December, which would see the right of reunion extended to successful asylum seekers' dependent parents and grandparents, children over 18 and in some cases siblings.

MPs backing the amendment have pointed to harrowing cases, highlighted by the British Red Cross, of families torn apart by existing asylum rules. In one case two Syrian brothers have been unable to bring their mother to the UK, leaving her alone and without any family support in a refugee camp in Iraq.

Yvette Cooper, chair of Labour's refugee taskforce, backs the amendment to the Immigration Bill (Getty)

In another, a family with three daughters have had to leave the eldest, who is 19, behind in Syria at the mercy of trafficking gangs and with no legal route to join her family.

Although it is thought unlikely to pass in the Commons tomorrow, there are hopes the amendment to the Immigration Bill could succeed in the House of Lords, where the Government lacks a majority.

If the amendment is passed, it could potentially open the doors to thousands more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, above and beyond the 20,000 the Government has pledged to resettle by 2020. However, the Home Office declined to speculate on the Government's response to any change in the law ahead of the debate on 1 December.

The 20,000 Syrians currently due to arrive includes family members of original applicants who are permitted to join them under the current rules.

Ms Cooper, chair of Labour's refugee taskforce, said that asylum rules in both Britain and Europe were not working.

"I have met refugee parents separated from their children or orphaned young people whose siblings are in the UK, whilst they are stuck in refugee camps," she said. "We should be doing more to allow families who have been driven from their homes by war, violence and persecution to be reunited in a place of sanctuary.

"As the winter closes in and we start turning our attention to Christmas, I hope the Government will take action to support those refugee families who have been torn apart by conflict to be reunited."

Mr Farron said existing reunion rules were "far too narrow" and called on Conservative MPs to back the amendment, which is also supported by the SNP and the Green Party.

Read more

EU pays (EURO)3bn to Turkey in exchange for help on refugee crisis

'Would you rather' quiz makes people face refugees' horrific choices

Alek Wek calls for more to be done to help Refugee Crisis

Syria needs a plan. How about this one?

"When you are fleeing for your life and making a journey to safety you can become separated from your family. The government recognises that families who find themselves in this situation deserve to be reunited, which is why there are reunion rules already in place," he said.

"This is just one part of what we should be doing to help those in crisis and is something that any reasonable Conservative should accept as the right thing to do."

Alex Fraser, head of refugee services at the British Red Cross, said the charity had helped reunite 300 refugee families this year, but encountered numerous cases obstructed by the current rules.

"The UK has pledged to give sanctuary to 20,000 Syrian people over the next five years and broadening the criteria for refugee family reunion would help thousands of people in danger by strengthening an existing safe and legal route to sanctuary," he said.

**Load-Date:** November 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Doctors, veterans and students tweet Donald Trump photos of their 'Muslim IDs' following his calls for a database; 'Absolutely.There should be a lot of systems, beyond databases.'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HFN-2TR1-F021-60X9-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 24, 2015 Tuesday 12:32 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 784 words

**Byline:** Hardeep Matharu

**Body**

Doctors, veterans and students are tweeting Donald Trump photos of their work identity cards after he said he would set up a database to track all US Muslimsif he became president.

The frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination has received widespread condemnation over controversial comments regarding the country's Muslim population in the wake of the Paris terror attacks.

He told NBC News that he would "absolutely" implement a national database to track Muslims in the US, with such a scheme involving Muslims being given a form of identification which would note their religion.

Read more

Sun front page on British Muslims attracts record complaints

'Proud' Muslim Marine challenges Donald Trump over ID claims

Donald Trump claims eight ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** could be 'Isis'

Mr Trump said: "I would certainly implement that. Absolutely. There should be a lot of systems, beyond databases. We should have a lot of systems."

When asked whether Muslims would be obliged to sign up and share their identity details on such a database by law, the millionaire entrepreneur told NBC News: "They have to be."

This is shocking rhetoric. It should be denounced by all seeking to lead this country. -H [*https://t.co/qs2TJI5spu*](https://t.co/qs2TJI5spu)

- Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) November 20, 2015

The 69-year-old's comments have sparked outrage, with Democratic presidential hopeful Hilary Clinton tweeting: "This is shocking rhetoric. It should be denounced by all seeking to lead this country."

Others compared his plan for the scheme to the victimisation of Jews by the Nazis.

In response to his provocative suggestion, many American Muslims have taken to Twitter to express their views on the subject - with many tweeting the businessman photos of their existing work identity cards alongside the hashtag 'MuslimID'.

One Twitter user even mocked up a fake Muslim ID card "signed by the imaginary 45th President of the United States, Donald J Trump".

@WajahatAli gets his #MuslimID 'signed' by the imaginary 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump. pic.twitter.com/gmNWUldo2V

- Olatunde Bakare (@Backarray) November 24, 2015

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The country's House of Representatives last week passed a bill to tighten restrictions on Syrian and Iraqi refugees settling in the US. It is still to be considered by the Senate.

**Load-Date:** November 24, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump says US should accept refugees from Syria; During the Fox interview, he also threw shade at President Obama, Kim Davis, the Black Lives Matter movement and Planned Parenthood*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWF-M8F1-F021-63R7-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 10, 2015 Thursday 7:49 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 248 words

**Byline:** Justin Carissimo

**Body**

Donald Trump said the United States needs to take in ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** during an appearance the O'Reilly Factor on Tuesday night.

"I hate the concept of it, but on a humanitarian basis, you have to."

Politicoreports that Mr Trump then referenced President Barack Obama's red-line warning to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in 2013.

"This was started by President Obama when he didn't go in and do the job he should have when he drew the line in the sand, which turned out to be a very artificial line. But you know, it's living in hell in Syria. There's no question about it. They're living in hell and something has to be done."

The Republican hopeful then suggested that Assad should have been removed from power.

"Probably, in retrospect, they should have gone in and done something with Assad. But you know, Assad is not our biggest problem because Assad and Isis are actually fighting," he said.

"So, now what we're doing is we're fighting Isis and Isis wants to fight Assad. Some people could say, 'Why don't you just let them fight out and you take out the remnants?'

During the appearance, the Republican front-runner also suggested that the Black Lives Matter movement is "looking for trouble," the Kentucky clerk jailed for refusing to issue marriage licenses needs to do her job, and that he does not intend on funding Planned Parenthood if he becomes president.

Watch Mr Trump's entire appearance on the O'Reilly Factor here:

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Two charts which shame Britain when it comes to Europe's refugee crisis; How the UK's refugee commitment compares to Germany's*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV0-2FY1-F021-604J-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 3, 2015 Thursday 7:31 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 272 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

Germany has been praised in recent weeks for the lead role it is playing in Europe's refugee crisis, saying it expects to receive - and welcome - as many as 800,000 people arriving at its borders by the end of the year.

So how does Britain compare? Earlier this year, European countries made a basic commitment to take in a combined 60,000 Syrian and Eritrean refugees over the next two years.

That included 40,000 who were already in Italy and Greece and a further 20,000 who were expected to flee the war-torn countries but had not yet arrived.

Read more: This is how desperate refugees are to enter the EUSyrian refugees Britain has taken would fit on Tube trainSix charts that show where refugees are coming from

Germany agreed to take on a combined total of 12,500 - just over 20 per cent of the total on its own.

But amid squabbling within the EU that escalated into one of Europe's most bitter rows in years, Britain exercised its option not to relocate any of the 40,000 already arrived, instead offering a token 2,200 homes over the two years to future asylum-seekers.

Populations compared

As a percentage of a country's population, the UK's 0.003 per cent commitment was the second-lowest in Europe after Hungary's 0 per cent.

Commitments compared

Last month, it was confirmed that the total commitments of all the EU member states would in fact fall short of the 60,000 target.

And on the subject of how Britain has got on towards its 2,200 target - the number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who have qualified so far would comfortably fit in a single Tube train.

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Thousands of Syrian refugee children in Iraq left in 'legal limbo'; 240,000 refugees who fled the fighting in Syria now live inIraq andare often unable to get their children citizenship in either country*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HGR-S5F1-JCJY-G41B-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 29, 2015 Sunday 5:52 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 701 words

**Byline:** Salar Salim, Susannah George

**Body**

Aria is stateless. Like thousands of other children born to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living inIraq, the 10-month-old girl is beginning her life in legal limbo.

Some 240,000 refugees who fled the fighting in Syria now live inIraq, where among many other hardships, they are often unable to get their children citizenship in either country.

"It's required to have a nationality," said Azad Khalil, the girl's father. "She doesn't exist in any records (in Syria) because she was born here."

Syrian refugee Simav Nuh, rests inside an informal tented settlement in Irbil, northern Iraq

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who have children inIraq's Kurdistan region are entitled to apply for official birth certificates from local authorities, but many families don't. Refugee camps are often far away from government buildings in major cities, so many children are left without the most basic documentation.

Khalil said he can only apply for citizenship for his daughter if the family returns to Syria. But with the country in the fifth year of a civil war that has killed more than 250,000 people, the odds of returning home are slim. He fears that even a temporary visit to apply for citizenship would be a waste of time.

24-year-old Syrian refugee Aziza Suleyman poses for a photograph with her children

"The document that we have from here is very simple, it doesn't show anything, only that she was born here. If we take it back to Syria they might not recognize it," he said.

Read more

'Would you rather' quiz makes people face refugees' horrific choices

I'm a refugee - and if you think the process is easy, read this

Rain is turning Calais refugee camp into 'a swamp'

Other families said that even if they could return home, they would be afraid to present such documents in a Syrian government office. They worry that proof they were refugees would associate them with opposition groups, despite announcements from the Syrian government that all refugees are welcome to return.

These children are neither citizens of Syria, their families' country of origin, or of Iraq, the country where they now live

For infants and toddlers living in refugee camps, the lack of national identity documents doesn't pose immediate problems. But as children grow up, not having a nationality will prevent them from finding legal work, traveling and going to school.

"If the situation is prolonged for a very long time, these children would become adults," said Frederic Cussigh, senior field coordinator for the UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency. "To legally work inIraq, that could be a problem, (or) to get their residency... they would face an impressive amount of problems all along, possibly for the rest of their life."

Syrian refugee Yasra Mohammad poses for a photograph with her children

Even collecting the required paperwork inIraq, Cussigh explained, can be hard for refugees who often have limited financial resources. "In terms of means, just bearing the cost of the taxi to go to the public (authorities) can be difficult," he said.

According to the U.N., 12,516 Syrian children have been born inIraqsince the beginning of the Syrian crisis. Their families are among the more than 4 million Syrians who have fled the country since the conflict broke out in 2011. Most remain in nearby countries, though hundreds of thousands have also made their way to Europe.

A 28-year-old Syrian refugee woman holds her children, at an informal tented settlement

Majide Mohammed's son Ahmed also lacks national identity documents. She gave birth to the 14-month-old in Syria, but was then forced to flee with her family, and was unable to register the newborn in her hometown.

"He doesn't have any documents," Mohammed explained. "They say we have to go to Syria (to register him). And my husband used to be in the military, so we cannot go back."

Syrian refugee children run at a temporary refugee camp in Irbil, northern Iraq.

The legal limbo has already prevented her from reuniting with her family in Turkey.

"I haven't seen them for two years and I can't visit them because my child has no proper papers. It's not allowed."

Associated Press

**Load-Date:** November 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugees Welcome: 'Airbnb for asylum seekers' started by German couple spreads around the world - and the UK could be next; 'We shouldn't discuss if they are coming - they are coming and they are coming from a horrible situation," the founder said*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H90-6WB1-JCJY-G3RD-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 2, 2015 Monday 4:47 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 1124 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

A scheme likened to "Airbnb for refugees" could soon be coming to the UK after spreading from Germany to Austria, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and Poland.

Refugees Welcome (Flüchtlinge Willkommen), founded by a German couple and their friend last year, allows people to offer a room in their home to an asylum seeker and house them for as long as they want to.

Aiming to offer the hundreds of thousands of people fleeing into Europe across the Mediterranean a safe home, the group also aims to "create a new culture of welcome" and help new arrivals integrate.

Mareike Geiling, who started it with her boyfriend Jonas Kakoschke and friend Golde Ebding, told

The Independent

they were stunned by their success.

Mareike Geiling said she and her boyfriend were looking for a way to help refugees when they came up with the idea

"We've been getting a lot of emails from all over the world," she said, adding that more than 300 people in the UK had expressed interest.

"But it's very difficult to set up a team and discussing it when there's people spread around the country. It can happen but it's difficult to say when."

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beaten with baseball bats by masked gang in Germany

German police spray protesters with water cannon in Cologne

Germany to fast track deportations so it can accept more refugees

'Neo-Nazi plot to attack refugees with explosives' foiled in Germany

Ms Geiling, 28, said the idea came when she was working Cairo last year and she wanted to do something to help the growing refugee crisis in Europe.

When she and Mr Kakoschke, 31, told family and friends of their plan to house a refugee, a German teacher she knew came forward to say one of her students in Berlin was a homeless asylum seeker who desperately needed a place to sleep.

"Wet him in a café and the next day he moved in with us," she said.

Mareike Geiling and Jonas Kakoschke met their Malian roommate, Bakary, last year and offered him a room in their flat in Berlin

Bakary, 39, moved to Europe from Mali 30 years ago with his family and worked in Italy until he lost his job in the economic crisis, causing hiswife and children to returnto their homeland.

"He thought that he would go to Berlin because there must be so many jobs, because he speaks four or five languages," Ms Geiling said. "But thereweren't and in Germany he stays homeless."

It is a fate that the German government is trying to avoid by creating reception centres in disused barracks and other buildings, which have seen arson attacks and protests in some areas.

Concerns are growing over increased violence against both refugees and those who support them, with two ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beaten with baseball bats outside a shelter in Wismar on Saturday and a politician in charge of housing asylum seekers stabbed in Cologne last month.

Video: Arson destroys planned refugee shelter in Germany

But Ms Geiling said her experience had shown overwhelming generosity among the German public, with couples, families with children, single mothers and friends sharing flats all offering up rooms.

"It's from the age of 20 to 70 and very diverse," she added. "We have people like bus drivers and carpenters, to doctors and scientists.

"We didn't expect that -we expected that it would mainly be flatshares and students, or friends, and we are really surprised about the older couples and elderly people joining...even my mum expressed interest."

More than 150 refugees had been housed in Germany and Austria by September and the numbers were growing quickly.

To join the scheme, people must register their interest online and give details of their housing situation before they are put in touch with a refugee organisation with a shortlist of registered asylum seekers needing homes in their area.

People are introduced to their perspective new housemate by volunteers, often meeting over a coffee or meal, and if they decide to take them in they are offered help financing the rent.

Although people have offered the group entire empty houses and flats, Ms Geiling said that would defeat one of the key aims of the initiative - to integrate.

"Living together is the key part of the project so if you have an empty flat we turn you down because that's not what this project is about - it's about living with people and getting to know them," she said, saying there is a "one person per room" rule.

"We made a couple of exceptions but don't want situations where whole families are crammed into one room," she added.

Most of the asylum seekers helped so far by Refugees Welcome are from Sub-Saharan Africa, closely followed by Syria, North Africa, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran.

As the organisation continues to grow, Ms Geiling has started working on it full-time with a team of more than 60 volunteers, while Mr Kakoschke is working freelance as he maintains the website and runs its international expansion with his girlfriend.

With the majority of more than 700,000 migrants and asylum seekers who have risked their lives crossing the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea to reach Europe this year heading for Germany, their work shows no sign of slowing.

Refugees who arrived by train at Hegyeshalom on the Austrian and Hungarian border

Calling Hungary's border closures and crackdowns on movement elsewhere in Europe "inhuman", Ms Geiling said she did not see Angela Merkel as the saviour she has sometimes been presented as for her policies welcoming ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

"Our organisation received nothing, there was no support, on government, no funding," she added. "We're not happy."

When asked about what prompted the incredible show of generosity by Refugees Welcome supporters, Ms Geiling said some were questioning if it was linked with the legacy of the Second World War.

"We still think oh my god, we are Nazis and we have this history and people hate us - but it's not at all like that," she said.

"I think Germans don't see themselves as especially helpful, it's really surprising (that others do). We think we could do a lot more.

"My mother, she's not especially interested in refugees, she's just a normal person, and even she is thinking what she could do."

Ms Geiling said she felt frustrated by the continued focus by the UK and other European nations at attempting to stop the flow of refugees through eastern Europe.

"We shouldn't think of these people as a burden but as a chance," she added.

"We shouldn't discuss if they are coming - they are coming and they are coming from big emergencies and horrible situations.

"They are allowed to come. We could all like to choose where we get to live our lives."

**Load-Date:** November 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugees welcome\*; Refugee crisis (\*Terms and conditions apply) Cameron criticised for doing too little to help refugees now*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW5-H4N1-JCS0-D209-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 8, 2015 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 739 words

**Byline:** OLIVER WRIGHT POLITICAL EDITOR

**Body**

Britain will resettle up to 20,000 refugees who have fled from the conflict in Syria, David Cameron announced yesterday, but some may not arrive until the end of the decade and could face deportation after they have been in the UK for five years.

Refugee groups and opposition politicians lined up to criticise the announcement made by the Prime Minister for being "pitifully short of what's needed" to tackle the crisis. The Speaker of the Commons has granted an emergency debate on the issue today.

Mr Cameron claimed the UK's new resettlement scheme would ensure that vulnerable children - including orphans - are a priority, following in the tradition of the Kindertransport programme that helped Jewish children escape from Nazi Germany.

But it later emerged all those accepted under the scheme will only be given the right to remain in the UK for five years. This, the former leader of the Liberal Democrats Lord Ashdown suggested, could mean orphans and children being deported at the age of 18 having made a new life in Britain. A government spokesman said that after the five-year period refugees could apply for indefinite leave to remain.

More than 370,000 people have now signed The Independent's petition urging the Government to take immediate action to open the country's doors to refugees. In addition, at least 5,000 people have volunteered to provide housing and assistance to refugees. Over 40 councils are discussing accommodating refugees in their cities.

A poll for The Independent today by ORB finds that nearly half of Britons believe that the Government should "do more" to help those fleeing the crisis. In his statement, Mr Cameron acknowledged the depth of public feeling and said it was right that Britain should "fulfil its moral responsibility" to help refugees.

"Given the scale of the crisis and the suffering of the Syrian people it is right that we should do much more," he said, announcing that Britain would "resettle up to 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over the rest of this parliament".

Mr Cameron said the scale and speed of the resettlement programme would depend on the advice of the UNHCR working on the ground in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, where the majority of the refugees are living in camps.

But he refused to set a target for how many refugees Britain would take this year, leading to criticism that he was doing too little.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, described the 20,000 figure as "slim compared with vast total of human need", while the shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, said much more could be done in a far shorter space of time.

"In the 1930s Britain took 10,000 children in just nine months," she said. "I am urging the Prime Minister to look again at this - and to talk to local authorities about how many more people they can swiftly help. It isn't enough to take refugees over five years when the crisis is now."

The Green Party MP Caroline Lucas added: "The Prime Minister's announcement amounts to letting in just 12 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** per day until May 2020 and is pitifully short of what's needed and of what British people want and expect. The UK should be taking more refugees - and doing so as quickly as possible."

Charities operating in the sector were more supportive, but also suggested that the Government could potentially have done more.

"It shouldn't have taken a photograph to get politicians to start to do the right thing, but this news offers a vital lifeline to thousands of Syrians," said Steve Symonds of Amnesty International.

"However, it does not address the huge challenge facing Europe right now - countries like Greece and Hungary cannot cope alone. Nor does it offer a solution to the many Eritreans, Afghans and others, forced to flee bullets, bombs, torture and overcrowded refugee camps elsewhere."

Oxfam chief executive Mark Goldring welcomed the announcement, but urged Mr Cameron to set out an "ambitious" timetable for completing the resettlement programme as soon as possible. Maurice Wren, Refugee Council chief executive, said the programme needed to be "frontloaded".

The poll for The Independent found that 49 per cent of the public believe the UK should do more to help with the current influx of people leaving the Middle East and Africa, with 38 per cent opposed and 12 per undecided. However, only 41 per cent believe the PM should allow more refugees fleeing the conflict into Britain, with 46 per cent opposed and 13 per cent undecided.

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Cameron faces mounting pressure to reverse Britain's hard-line stance; All parties apart from Ukip urge PM to reverse his hard-line stance*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV0-GSF1-F021-61BS-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 3, 2015 Thursday 7:31 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 707 words

**Byline:** Oliver Wright, Jamie Merrill, Matt Dathan

**Body**

David Cameron is facing growing public and political condemnation or his refusal to open Britain's doors to thousands of desperate refugees fleeing war and persecution.

The leaders of every political party in Britain apart from Ukip have called on the Prime Minister to reverse his hard-line stance and sign the country up to accepting our "fair share" of refugees.

Meanwhile a grassroots campaign has sprung up to organise demonstrations and petitions calling on the Government to accept Britain's obligation to tackle the largest mass exodus of people since the Second World War.

Mr Cameron is also facing diplomatic pressure to change his stance. The German ambassador, Peter Ammon, was authorised to make a rare public intervention calling for Britain to do more. "Britain has taken in refugees for centuries," said Mr Ammon. "With the humanitarian tradition that you have we should be able to find a solution here."

The refugee crisis - in pictures

Yvette Cooper led the calls from all the Labour leadership candidates for Mr Cameron to change his stance.

"When mothers are desperately trying to stop their babies from drowning when their boat has capsized, when people are being left to suffocate in the backs of lorries by evil gangs of traffickers and when children's bodies are being washed to shore, Britain needs to act," she said. "It is heartbreaking. We cannot keep turning our backs on this. We can - and must - do more."

Read more: Sign The Independent's petition to welcome refugeesNumber of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** Britain has taken would fit on Tube trainIf these images don't change Europe's attitude, what will?

Tim Farron, leader of the Liberal Democrats, added: "Enough is enough. These pictures are beyond horrific. They are the wake-up call David Cameron needs. There is a humanitarian crisis on our doorstep, but the UK Government appears disengaged, cold and irrelevant. We must take our fair share of refugees."

In Scotland the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: "I think most people want to see the UK play their part in a humanitarian response," she said. "Scotland will play a full part."

Her comments were backed by the leader of Plaid Cymru in Wales and the Green Party MP Caroline Lucas.

"The heart-wrenching scenes we're seeing - of children being washed up dead on beaches, of people being detained en masse on trains, of thousands upon thousands risking their lives to come to Europe - serve as a reminder of our duty to help those in peril," she said. "Britain can and must do more - it's time for the Government to wake up to the cruelty of its stance and give many more refugees the chance to settle here."

They were responding to comments earlier in the day by Mr Cameron who reiterated his position that the UK was already doing enough.

"I don't think there is an answer that can be achieved simply by taking more and more refugees," he said.

Read more: While the EU gropes for a response, Britain turns its backGermans stage pro-migrant rally with 'refugees welcome' bannersMay says migrants should be banned from entering the UK

But his remarks led to a backlash on social media with thousands of people signing petitions condemning the Government's stance.

Avaaz, the global activist organisation, teamed up with the charity Citizens UK to call for a "safe haven for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***". So far more than 1,300 people have pledged to volunteer to help integrate refugees into the British community, many offering accommodation in their own homes.

A petition calling for the Government to provide medical care to migrants in Calais was nearing its goal of 75,000 signatures after three weeks, while demonstrations are being planned in central London, Dover and Oxford at the weekend.

The Independent has launched its own petition calling for Britain to "accept its fair share of refugees". Politicians also posed with placards stating: "Refugees welcome".

Matthew Bolton, deputy director of Citizens UK, said: "We have seen a great interest [among] ordinary people saying they want to help. They are offering to lobby Government and even to open up their own homes. The groundswell is there, but sadly we've not seen a commitment from Government to match it yet."

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugees Welcome: 'Airbnb for asylum seekers' started by German couple spreads around the world - and the UK could be next; 'We shouldn't discuss if they are coming - they are coming and they are coming from a horrible situation," the founder said*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H90-CHW1-JCJY-G452-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 2, 2015 Monday 5:59 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 1113 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

A scheme likened to "Airbnb for refugees" could soon be coming to the UK after spreading from Germany to Austria, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and Poland.

Refugees Welcome (Flüchtlinge Willkommen), founded by a German couple and their friend last year, allows people to offer a room in their home to an asylum seeker and house them for as long as they want to.

Aiming to offer the hundreds of thousands of people fleeing into Europe across the Mediterranean a safe home, the group also aims to "create a new culture of welcome" and help new arrivals integrate.

Mareike Geiling, who started it with her boyfriend Jonas Kakoschke and friend Golde Ebding, told

The Independent

they were stunned by their success.

Mareike Geiling said she and her boyfriend were looking for a way to help refugees when they came up with the idea

"We've been getting a lot of emails from all over the world," she said, adding that more than 300 people in the UK had expressed interest.

"But it's very difficult to set up a team and discussing it when there's people spread around the country. It can happen but it's difficult to say when."

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beaten with baseball bats by masked gang in Germany

German police spray protesters with water cannon in Cologne

Germany to fast track deportations so it can accept more refugees

'Neo-Nazi plot to attack refugees with explosives' foiled in Germany

Ms Geiling, 28, said the idea came when she was working Cairo last year and she wanted to do something to help the growing refugee crisis in Europe.

When she and Mr Kakoschke, 31, told family and friends of their plan to house a refugee, a German teacher she knew came forward to say one of her students in Berlin was a homeless asylum seeker who desperately needed a place to sleep.

"Wet him in a café and the next day he moved in with us," she said.

Mareike Geiling and Jonas Kakoschke met their Malian roommate, Bakary, last year and offered him a room in their flat in Berlin

Bakary, 39, moved to Europe from Mali 30 years ago, married a Senegalese womanand worked in Italy until he lost his job in the economic crisis. He left for Germany andhiswife returned to Senegal with their child.

"He thought that he would go to Berlin because there must be so many jobs, because he speaks four or five languages," Ms Geiling said. "But thereweren't and in Germany he stays homeless."

It is a fate that the German government is trying to avoid by creating reception centres in disused barracks and other buildings, which have seen arson attacks and protests in some areas.

Concerns are growing over increased violence against both refugees and those who support them, with two ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beaten with baseball bats outside a shelter in Wismar on Saturday and a politician in charge of housing asylum seekers stabbed in Cologne last month.

Video: Arson destroys planned refugee shelter in Germany

But Ms Geiling said her experience had shown overwhelming generosity among the German public, with couples, families with children, single mothers and friends sharing flats all offering up rooms.

"It's from the age of 20 to 70 and very diverse," she added. "We have people like bus drivers and carpenters, to doctors and scientists.

"We didn't expect that -we expected that it would mainly be flatshares and students, or friends, and we are really surprised about the older couples and elderly people joining...even my mum expressed interest."

More than 150 refugees had been housed in Germany and Austria by September and the numbers were growing quickly.

To join the scheme, people must register their interest online and give details of their housing situation before they are put in touch with a refugee organisation with a shortlist of registered asylum seekers needing homes in their area.

People are introduced to their perspective new housemate by volunteers, often meeting over a coffee or meal, and if they decide to take them in they are offered help financing the rent.

Although people have offered the group entire empty houses and flats, Ms Geiling said that would defeat one of the key aims of the initiative - to integrate.

"Living together is the key part of the project so if you have an empty flat we turn you down because that's not what this project is about - it's about living with people and getting to know them," she said, saying there is a "one person per room" rule.

"We made a couple of exceptions but don't want situations where whole families are crammed into one room," she added.

Most of the asylum seekers helped so far by Refugees Welcome are from Sub-Saharan Africa, closely followed by Syria, North Africa, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran.

As the organisation continues to grow, Ms Geiling and Mr Kakoschke are workingon it full-time with a team of six other staff members and morethan 60 volunteers.

With the majority of more than 700,000 migrants and asylum seekers who have risked their lives crossing the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea to reach Europe this year heading for Germany, their work shows no sign of slowing.

Refugees who arrived by train at Hegyeshalom on the Austrian and Hungarian border

Calling Hungary's border closures and crackdowns on movement elsewhere in Europe "inhuman", Ms Geiling said she did not see Angela Merkel as the saviour she has sometimes been presented as for her policies welcoming ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

"Our organisation received nothing, there was no support, on government, no funding," she added. "We're not happy."

When asked about what prompted the incredible show of generosity by Refugees Welcome supporters, Ms Geiling said some were questioning if it was linked with the legacy of the Second World War.

"We still think oh my god, we are Nazis and we have this history and people hate us - but it's not at all like that," she said.

"I think Germans don't see themselves as especially helpful, it's really surprising (that others do). We think we could do a lot more.

"My mother, she's not especially interested in refugees, she's just a normal person, and even she is thinking what she could do."

Ms Geiling said she felt frustrated by the continued focus by the UK and other European nations at attempting to stop the flow of refugees through eastern Europe.

"We shouldn't think of these people as a burden but as a chance," she added.

"We shouldn't discuss if they are coming - they are coming and they are coming from big emergencies and horrible situations.

"They are allowed to come. We could all like to choose where we get to live our lives."

**Load-Date:** November 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Unpaid Turkish workers sewing handwritten pleas for help into Zara clothes*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PWD-NFJ1-JCS0-D2W6-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

November 5, 2017 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 23

**Length:** 314 words

**Byline:** SARAH YOUNG

**Body**

Shoppers at fashion retailer Zara have found unusual notes in their clothes from workers claiming they have not been paid for making the merchandise. With £53.4m in annual sales and more than 2,200 stores worldwide, Zara might be one of the world's most successful fashion brands, but, once again, the retailer finds itself embroiled in controversy.

According to customers in Istanbul, cries for help in the form of handwritten notes from Turkish workers have been found in the pockets of in-store garments asking shoppers to back their campaign for better labour standards and pressure Zara into paying them the wages they say they are owed, the Associated Press reports.

The notes state the workers in question were employed by third-party manufacturer Bravo Tekstil, which reportedly closed down overnight, leaving workers owed several months wages. Bravo Tekstil also manufacturers garments for Mango and Next. "I made this item you are going to buy, but I didn't get paid for it," the notes reportedly read.

But, this isn't the first time the fast-fashion retailer has come under fire. The Spanish chain has previously been taken to task for causing environmental damage, ripping off young designers, and overlooking poor factory conditions. It was even sued for dismal working conditions and accused of both slave and child labour, as well as exploiting ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as young as 15.

But, despite this, just last month Zara's parent company, Inditex, published a press release stating its dedication to working with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to "[enhance] labour conditions at all levels of the garment sector value chain". According to the release, Inditex are collaborating with the ILO on the SCORE project, which is "targeted at improving management systems and working conditions in factories in China and Turkey".

The Independent has contacted Zara for comment.

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2017

**End of Document**



[*British woman who went missing on holiday in Greece was killed and eaten by wolves; Reports suggest CeliaHollingworth tried to contact her relatives in London after being attacked but lost signal on her phone*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PJX-9TD1-JCJY-G502-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 26, 2017 Tuesday 7:04 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS; Version:1

**Length:** 282 words

**Byline:** Agency

**Body**

A British woman believed to have died after being mauled by feral dogs in Greece may have been attacked by wolves, a coroner has said.

The woman, named locally as Celia Hollingworth, of Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, was reported missing on Thursday.

The 62-year-old disappeared while walking back to her accommodation in Maroneia, in the northern part of the country, following a visit to a nearby archaeological site.

Coroner Nikolaos Kifinidis told

The Times

that the condition of remains found on Saturday suggested she was not attacked by stray dogs.

"It seems like she may have been attacked by other wild animals, like rabid wolves and jackals," he said.

According to animal welfare campaigners, there are an estimated one million stray dogs in Greece, however wolves are common to the wooded region.

Reports suggest that Ms Hollingworth tried to contact her relatives in London after being attacked but lost signal on her phone.

Several campaign groups in the UK paid tribute to the retiree, who was described as "dedicated" and "always optimistic".

According to reports, Ms Hollingworth worked as an administrator at the University of Bristol and latterly dedicated her time to raising money for causes including ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

A spokesman for Wiltshire Police said: "We are working closely with officers in Greece regarding the formal identification of the deceased.

"We are also working with colleagues from the Foreign Office and supporting her next of kin at this difficult time."

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "We are in contact with Greek police in relation to a British woman missing in northern Greece since Thursday.

"We are also providing consular assistance to her family."

PA

**Load-Date:** September 26, 2017

**End of Document**



[*British woman who went missing on holiday in Greece 'was killed and eaten by wolves'; Reports suggest CeliaHollingworth tried to contact her relatives in London after being attacked but lost signal on her phone*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PKC-8G51-JCJY-G3SR-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 26, 2017 Tuesday 7:04 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS; Version:2

**Length:** 282 words

**Byline:** Agency

**Body**

A British woman believed to have died after being mauled by feral dogs in Greece may have been attacked by wolves, a coroner has said.

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PA

**Load-Date:** September 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Irma evacuees who abandoned their pets could be prosecuted; 'We will find you, and we will prosecute you,'said Dave Aronberg, the state prosecutor for Palm Beach County*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PG6-R6K1-F021-628W-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 13, 2017 Wednesday 6:46 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS; Version:2

**Length:** 279 words

**Byline:** Alexandra Wilts

**Body**

Pet owners who abandoned their furry companions during Hurricane Irma could face criminal charges.

"We will find you, and we will prosecute you," said Dave Aronberg, the state prosecutor for Palm Beach County in Florida.

Leaving a pet behind to fend for itself during a major storm "is a prime example of animal cruelty", Mr Aronberg told the

New York Post

.

Read more

I tried to evacuate for Irma - but it didn't go quite to plan

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** respond to Hurricane Irma by cooking feasts for

Boris Johnson witnesses Hurricane Irma devastation in Anguilla

Following the hurricane that struck Florida over the weekend, 40 dogs were rescued by Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control officers, the

Post

reported.

Many of the animals had been tied to poles or left in pens outside.

The organisation's director, Dianne Suave, told the newspaper: "There is absolutely no excuse for doing that."

By law, if pet owners give their animals to a shelter before a hurricane or major storm hits, they are unable to get them back once the event has passed.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has rescued up to 600 animals in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina in the aftermath of Irma, according to Yahoo News.

"It's critical for pet owners to consider their animals when preparing for any disaster, and we strongly urge them to always bring their animals with them if they have to evacuate their home," ASPCA vice president Tim Rickey said in a statement as Irma approached the southeastern region of the US.

"The ASPCA stands ready to assist animals in Hurricane Irma's path, but the first and best line of defence for a pet will always be a well-prepared owner."

**Load-Date:** September 13, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Marine Le Pen has arrived in Lebanon to find out that the Christians she thought were her allies aren't on her side at all; The National Front leader thought that Lebanon, burdened with a million Syrian refugees, should send them home as soon as the war is over. She clearly did not know that tens of thousands of Lebanese are actuallyrelated to Syrians*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MY3-S8C1-JCJY-G4MT-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 23, 2017 Thursday 11:22 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES; Version:3

**Length:** 1601 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

Marine Le Pen has been doing a little Trumping in Beirut. Yes, all the way from Paris she came to ride her French presidential election campaign through the sectarian thickets of Lebanon by refusing to wear a veil to meet the Sunni Muslim Grand Mufti. Given the nonsense she spoke to the (Christian) president of Lebanon and the schoolgirl interview she granted to the country's (Christian) French-language newspaper, many Lebanese - and a few Christians, too - concluded that this wretched lady embarked on her visit with the sole aim of insulting the country's Muslims.

Of course, it was a publicity stunt. Marine Le Pen doesn't care about the votes of Lebanese Christians who hold French passports - her Front National (FN) anyway wants to get such dual nationals to choose their country of citizenship, so the poor old Christians of Lebanon whom Le Pen supposedly loves may have to abandon their country of origin if they want France to "protect" them from the Muslim hordes. No, her refusal to wear a veil - a mere headscarf to show respect to the Sunni Mufti, Sheikh Abdel-Latif Derian - was intended for her domestic audience in France. Muslims want to subjugate women. It was the old message. To hell with Lebanon. Which is surely why she was accompanied on this pantomime by more French than Lebanese journalists.

Had the Mufti been given some decent advice, he might have declined to see this ghostly relic of the French Mandate, the post-World War One military "protection" which the League of Nations forced upon Lebanon. The latter began when a one-armed French general sent his tanks against Arab cavalry west of Damascus and ended not long after Lebanon was forced to endure a year of rule by Vichy France - whose anti-Semitic leader, Marshal Philippe Pétain, would surely have approved of Le Pen's visit.

Marine Le Pen walks out of meeting with Lebanon's Grand Mufti after refusing to wear

headscarf

No wonder the Lebanese Druze leader Walid Jumblatt - on a trip to François Hollande in Paris, where Le Pen should have stayed - denounced her visit as an insult to the Lebanese people. "I hope France will make a better choice than this right-wing fascist," he said in his deceptively mild voice. But the infamous veil was essential for another reason - it successfully covered the far more sectarian interference of Le Pen in the Lebanese-Syrian crisis that has afflicted Lebanon, on and off, for 40 years. Her first visit to a head of state was to Michel Aoun, the newly installed Lebanese president whose reputation, until he arrived at the Baabda palace above Beirut, was not dissimilar to that of Donald Trump himself.

Once a fierce enemy of the Hafez al-Assad regime in Damascus, he was later to declare himself a friend of Syria and - so desperate was he to become president - allied himself with Syria's militia ally, the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah. Thus when Marine Le Pen repeated her support for Hafez's son Bashar in his battle against Isis, she met little resistance from Aoun - of whom more later.

But Aoun's Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Saad Hariri, who still blames the Syrians for the murder of his late father Rafic, turned on the FN leader for confusing the Muslim faith with Islamist fundamentalism. "Moderate" Muslims, who were in an overwhelming majority, were the first victims of "terrorism", he told her sharply. And a clutch of Christian leaders - whom Le Pen presumably thought would take her side - upbraided her for suggesting that France should support President Bashar al-Assad in the Syrian war. This was the detonation behind Jumblatt's excoriation of this sad jewel of right-wing French politics.

Not that this affected the florid style of the FN presidential contender who went on to give an interview of unparalleled insensitivity to

L'Orient Le Jour

, the earnest francophone daily which serves Lebanon's minority Christian community. Like a child careening through the undergrowth of an old battlefield, Marine Le Pen marched knee-deep through the buried wreckage of civil war. She praised the Syrian government as the only alternative to an Isis victory, urged her own government to re-open the French embassy in Damascus and even drew comparisons between Lebanon and Syria and post-war France and Germany. Would she like to meet Assad himself, Le Pen was asked?

"Of course," she replied. "Because I want everyone to be around the table. If France and Germany could make peace, I think that Lebanon and Syria are able to make peace. And I think it's possible to make peace because of the struggle against a common enemy. This common enemy is obviously the Islamic State...I said from the start of this conflict - and I was the only one to say it at the time - that to help in the downfall of Bashar al-Assad was to allow Isis to take over Syria." The parallels were false, of course. While it was intriguing to see how the Le Pen brain equated Lebanon with France and Syria with ex-Nazi Germany, the post-war peace in Europe was concluded not in the face of a common enemy but to ensure that Europeans never went to war again.

But Le Pen ploughed on. "In Syria, I think that those who staked [their hopes] on a moderate opposition which was unconnected to any Islamist fundamentalism have had to conclude that this opposition, if it exists [sic], was derisory and could not provide an alternative to Bashar al-Assad. In geopolitics, you must often make the choice of the least bad, and for me the least bad is Bashar al-Assad. I am French and I consider that he was not a danger to France." Le Pen's remarks were doubly painful for the Lebanese. Firstly, because Levantine Christians, while dependent on Assad's protection inside Syria, do not necessarily support the government - indeed, tens of thousands of Lebanese Christians still demand the end of the Assad regime and loathed Le Pen's use of the word "derisory". Secondly, however, Le Pen scratched the ugly surface of the West's own compromised policy towards Assad - which originally demanded his overthrow (or promised his imminent demise) and then grudgingly (a la Boris Johnson's cringe-making performance to the Lords international affairs committee) accepted that he is going to remain in power. In other words, Assad is the only rampart against Islamist fundamentalism in Syria.

Le Pen even thought that Lebanon, burdened with a million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, should send them home as soon as the war is over. It was another attempt to stitch her flagrant anti-immigration politics onto Lebanon; and it came badly undone since Le Pen clearly did not know that tens of thousands of Lebanese are related to Syrians and have extended Syrian families. Indeed, a vast throng of Lebanese regarded themselves as Syrians before Le Pen's beloved France decided to carve Lebanon out of Syria and create a border between the two after the First World War.

This was all very strange. After all, several FN supporters joined the right-wing Christian militias during the 1975-90 Lebanese civil war; and one of them is currently a bodyguard for Le Pen herself. Didn't they tip her off that Lebanon might not be quite the place to play domestic French politics? Not by chance did one Christian Lebanese writer compare her waffle about French "protection" to the Seventh Crusade and the solemn charter of French King Louis IX, who promised the Christian Maronites of Lebanon "the special protection which we give to the French themselves".

Perhaps she thought that President Aoun was the Christians' special protector. Another strange idea. In 1990, then Lebanese General Michel Aoun believed he was the president of Lebanon (albeit unelected) and declared that prime minister Selim Hoss was the Pontius Pilate of Lebanon - suggesting that he, Aoun, might have a more lofty role in the Biblical story. But he enjoyed a comparison to Napoleon when he launched a "war of liberation"against Syrian troops in Lebanon, then ran to hide in the French ambassador's residence as the Syrians stormed the Baabda palace. Asked by a journalist in his Paris exile if he didn't feel responsible for the Lebanese soldiers and civilians who had been killed in his earlier conflict with Syria, he replied: "C'est la guerre." Which sounded more than a little mad. When he eventually achieved the presidency, these Trump-like characteristics briefly ceased.

But then, setting off for Egypt this month, Aoun stated publicly that Hezbollah was part of Lebanon's defence against Israel, since the Lebanese army was "weak". The Lebanese army will be less "weak"if it receives $3bn (£2.4bn)worth of arms promised by France and paid for by Saudi Arabia - but why should the Sunni Saudis bankroll an army which is supposed, according to Aoun, to fight alongside the Shiite Hezbollah - which is also fighting alongside the Syrian forces of Bashar al-Assad whom the Saudis still want to overthrow?

Aoun's assertion was in total contravention of UN Security Council resolution 1701, which put UN troops on the Lebanese-Israeli border to safeguard the country's sovereignty. When the UN's representative in Beirut objected, she was told that the Lebanese foreign minister - who just happens to be the son-in-law of President Aoun - declined to see her. All of this passed Le Pen by.

But one thing is certain. Unless she becomes the president of France - which still seems highly unlikely - President Assad of Syria will treat Mlle Le Pen with a great deal of caution. He and his allies - including Russia - are still winning their war against Isis and Nusrah and other opposition fighters without any help from France. Who wants the Front National on their side?

**Load-Date:** February 23, 2017

**End of Document**



[*The 200,000 Syrian child refugees forced into slave labour in Lebanon; While the world obsesses over the atrocities committed by Isis, the plight of those forced to flee the country has been largely forgotten. ROBERT FISK takes a heartbreaking tour of the Sedyanel 7 camp*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DFS-WSV1-F072-40HJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

October 27, 2014 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 1179 words

**Byline:** ROBERT FISK

**Body**

Eleven-year-old Abdullah was working on a construction site last week when he accidentally swallowed a rusty nail. He was one of up to 200,000 Syrian refugee children - some as young as five - working in Lebanon's potato and bean fields or picking figs in the Bekaa Valley. Many of them are beaten with sticks in a situation perilously close to slave labour. And when their country's cancerous war ends, they will be the new men and women who will have to return to rebuild their nation.

But they will be half-educated, having lived through their childhood as labourers, sleeping in some of the filthiest camps in the land.

Abdullah was living with his family in a tent in Tel Ferhoun when he swallowed the nail. He didn't tell his parents, as he was afraid they would be angry with him. A fatal mistake. Just before the weekend, he died of tetanus poisoning. Newspapers carried not a word of his passing - after all, Isis supporters are in battle with Lebanese soldiers in the north and the army now claims it is fighting a war against "terrorists". This means that the Lebanese army and the Syrian army and the Egyptian army and bits of the Libyan army and the Algerian army and the Tunisian police are now all claiming they are fighting "terror" - and of course they're all deploying the very same words George W Bush and his British partner-in-crime used before they started smashing up the Middle East 11 years ago. So much, then, for little Abdullah.

Walking around these tented encampments in the Bekaa with Lebanese and Syrian NGOs of outstanding courage and humanity, one can only wonder how such a tragedy can be resolved. Because most of their fathers are in Syria, their mothers burdened by more and more childbirths - one Lebanese doctor has reported delivering a third child to the same Syrian woman refugee since she arrived here - the families need the money. Each camp runs a vicious system of "shawish", a network of venal Syrian supervisors who pay some children only 90p per day. Families have to rent one tent lamp for £6 a month, a portable television for another £6. Some even have to pay £60 a month to live there.

One of the shawish, Radwan Abu Khaled, told me he could not afford to pay the children much because he needed the money to hire the tractor that trucks them to the fields each day. In many cases the Syrian shawish rents the land from Lebanese property owners - and has done so as a seasonal worker long before the Syrian war. It is an utterly corrupt system, since it stunts the growth of Syria's next generation and will leave them desperately under-educated when - if - they go home. Alas, it is a worldwide statistic that, of displaced refugees, around 30 per cent never return home. Just don't tell that to the Lebanese.

However, hope there is, of a kind, in the shape of a wonderful Lebanese NGO called Beyond, which works with Unicef and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The boss is Maria Assi from Nabatiyeh (in the south of Lebanon), who must be the most loved woman in the country. Skinny children race to play with her whenever she enters a camp; women almost cry when they smile at her.

She has organised schools in camp after camp and campaigns furiously against child labour, arguing gently with the all-powerful "shawish" exploiters to at least reduce the hours they work so that the children can spend some of the day in school.

When I visited these camps, every child to whom I spoke - from five to 15 - did not want to labour in the fields. They came from all over Syria - one even came from the embattled town of Kobani - and many have wretched stories of blood and fire. One wild-haired little girl who flung herself into Maria Assi's arms lost her mother in childbirth a month ago. The baby also died.

Maria said: "Beyond schools persuade the children to act out their lives - and their paintings have changed subtly: from crayoned corpses with blood spilling from their heads to trees and fruit and children dancing.

Her people even put on a theatrical play about child labour in which the real child workers played themselves in the fields. The "shawish" were themselves invited and 3,000 adult refugees turned up to watch.

"We kept asking Syrians what they needed," Maria Assi says. "Education was their first priority. The schools - in tents, anywhere - was what they wanted. You can see cities destroyed, but you can't have a generation destroyed." Unicef pays for the education, but as yet there is no treatment for traumatised children, no mental health doctors or psychiatrist. Some of the tented encampments are well run - near Zahle, for example, the tents are clean, the ground swept.

But in a ditch beside Fayda 1 camp further north, the carcasses of animals lay rotting a few metres from the tents and children were allowed to play only on a giant pile of red earth near the sewer.

One Unicef official in Beirut spoke movingly to me of how Syrian families had simply spent all their savings.

"When they arrived, they took rented rooms. Then as the money began to get lower, they packed into one room, then they shared the one room with other families - and then went to live in tents. Some had been displaced three times in their own country before coming here." Of course, there are now 1.2 million registered ***Syrian refugees*** in Lebanon - one in every three people in Lebanon is now a Syrian - and at least 15,000 refugee children have been born here. So difficult is the registration that by the end of this year, there could be 30,000 unregistered Syrian child refugees in Lebanon.

When I discussed all this in Beirut with Frank Hagemann, the cheerful German deputy regional director of the ILO, he said that the children need "on the job training and protection in addition to schools", because the reconstruction of Syria will need skills. "We try to put more schools in place to reduce the size of this lost generation. Some children are working 12 to 14 hours a day. Working hours must come down. Let's at least save the children's health." In other words, if child labour cannot be stopped, then the working hours should be reduced and include vocational training.

At present, according to an NGO report last month, Syrian school enrolment in Lebanon is below that of sub-Saharan Africa. And 80 per cent of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** here - this is a Unicef statistic - live in areas inhabited by 68 per cent of the poorest Lebanese.

Meanwhile, the camps are on the move.

When fighting started at Qalamoun in the north, between Syrian troops and Hizballah and Nusra Front rebels, the tents moved south. When fighting started in Qusair, the tents moved again, thousands of them, almost overnight. But the refugees have achieved one grim precedent in Lebanon. When ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** began dying - of ill health or old age - the municipalities refused to bury them in Lebanon's strictly divided cemeteries. But one kind Lebanese donated land near the Syrian border for a mixed Syrian graveyard.

Al-Faour cemetery is thus the only plot in the whole of Lebanon where Muslim and Christian can lie together for eternity.

**Load-Date:** October 27, 2014

**End of Document**



# [*Crisis in the Middle East: We can only watch as darkness falls; As the region is beset by crisis after crisis, the West seems powerless to do anything but wring its hands*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5CW6-GFX1-DXDT-647G-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

August 10, 2014 Sunday 12:00 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1159 words

**Byline:** Chris Doyle

**Body**

"The lamps are going out all over the Middle East", to update Sir Edward Grey's doom-laden warning to Europe a hundred years ago. The areas of calm and stability seem like small oases in a multitude of firestorms. Many areas are literally without lights. Gaza has around two hours electricity a day. The power cuts in Yemen are worse and worse, leading to major protests. But, more worryingly, the lights of the democratic, liberal, pluralistic forces that for many months in 2011 lit up the region are also dimming, overshadowed by the twin forces of brutal dictatorship and brutal religious sectarian extremism.

Syria and Iraq are divided and near ungovernable, in the waiting room for failed-state status. The so-called Islamic caliphate or Isis, which in reality bears no resemblance to any caliphates of the past, covers an ever-expanding area, larger than the United Kingdom, including 35 per cent of Syria. Libya is being terrorised by rival militias. Palestinians in Gaza, for the fourth time since 2006, are at the wrong end of an Israeli military aggression that pits one of the world's most sophisticated militaries against a captive population inside the world's largest prison. The collective pile of rubble from these conflicts would grace a mountain range.

Those states and areas that enjoy calm become refugee camps. Lebanon and Jordan host almost two million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** between them, as well as 2.5 million Palestinians. Tunisia is confronted with a mass Libyan exodus; while Iraqi Kurdistan is home to more than 300,000 Iraqis displaced only since June, as well as 220,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. In each case, the numbers are rocketing up - with the number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** alone expected to reach four million by the end of the year. Each humanitarian appeal is underfunded.

Will it get worse? The signs are worrying. The fighting in Lebanon last week, in Arsal in the north Bekaa valley, is yet another example of why the Syrian crisis threatens to move from spilling over, to swamping, its smaller neighbour. The instability could spread to Jordan. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states will not be immune to the regional changes.

Given the epidemic of crises in an area of the world vital to our trade, energy and security interests, the minimal expectation would be an energetic and engaged response. Yet, when asked about Western policy towards the region, my instinctive response is, "There is one?"

The failure is first and foremost one of leadership, at an international and regional level. Who are great international statesmen in the West or in the Middle East? Who do young Arabs, who make up most of the population, look to for inspiration? President Obama has been blasted for his indecisiveness but he is not alone. George W Bush and Tony Blair were decisive over Iraq and destroyed the country. There is no strategy, and often the debate is reduced to a question of to bomb or not to bomb.

The leadership deficit is reinforced by an inability to assess the situation. Barely anybody, including in the region, predicted the uprisings of 2010 and 2011. The speed of Isis's seizure of major Iraqi cities, especially Mosul, shocked all. It points to a lack of trained people on the ground and a complacent groupthink which fails to appreciate that the comfortable regional order of dictators and all-powerful monarchs is at an end.

Politicians, diplomats and the media struggle to focus on more than one crisis at a time. As the focus turns to Gaza, Syria and Iraq are ignored - just as Gaza was two months ago. More than 1,700 Syrians were killed in one week in July - the most deadly since the uprising began. Every one of these crises merits full-scale attention. Worse, states duck the problems, as they did over Iraq for years and risk doing now over Libya, even as embassies in Tripoli are evacuated.

Reactions are slow and ponderous. How often do international actors address a crisis only once it has reached the status of too tough to resolve. With Syria, it was almost a year before Kofi Annan was appointed a United Nations envoy, by which stage the situation was so violent and polarised his options were constrained. As it stands, there is no political process to try to resolve the worst crisis in the region. In Iraq, President Obama has just ordered limited strikes on Isis - but these come after it has committed massacres, acquired a formidable arsenal and a bank balance in the billions. Where is the strategy to defeat this new menace? The rise of Isis was facilitated by Nouri al-Maliki's divisive sectarian approach which allowed Isis to ride a wave of Sunni Arab despair.

This is backed up by a short-sighted approach of always picking "our man" (always a man) or "our group". In Libya and Syria, the West set about anointing sole legitimate representatives of their peoples as if this was the right of Washington, London and Paris, rather than the peoples involved. Colonial mentalities die hard.

Just at the point when a cohesive response was vital, the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council embarked on a new cold war over Ukraine, thus rendering itself impotent. The conjunction of the Ukraine crisis and the end of the Geneva II talks on Syria smashed vestigial hopes of political progress, with Russia instructing its proxy not to concede an inch.

Major regional powers are indulging in their own dangerous rivalries, often petty and personal. The Middle East cold war causes Saudi Arabia to confront Iran in practically every crisis. Qatar and Saudi also pursue their own rivalry. Egypt, Saudi and the UAE are engaged in a fruitless, counterproductive war of their own against the Muslim Brotherhood and its backers. The myriad failings of the Brotherhood do not warrant foolhardy attempts to wipe them out.

The choice offered to the peoples of the region is the false one of authoritarianism or brutal extremist Islamism or chaos. This is deliberate. Every regime requires, even promotes, a truly awful opponent. Bashar al-Assad has found Isis useful to scare Syrians, as has Mr Maliki in Iraq; for Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Egypt, it is the Muslim Brotherhood; and for the Israeli government, it is Hamas. All too often it is a winner-loser scenario, where force is justified to gain outright victory.

The largest losers have been those who espouse the very values the West claims to support. All the pluralistic, democratic and liberal forces in the region have been crushed. Back in 2011, US and European ministers proclaimed their support for peaceful Arab protests but let every one down, handing the field to counter-democratic forces, sectarian extremists and men of violence. The West has simultaneously deserted its proclaimed values and endangered its interests. The situation can be turned around - but the flickering lamps will be kept alight only by a clear-sighted, well-informed and united international strategy.

Chris Doyle is director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2014

**End of Document**



[*'Don't blame immigrants for Britain's economic problems,' Jeremy Corbyn says; 'East European builders and technicians did not slash funding for children's centres and libraries,' Labour leader adds*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N3V-MP61-JCJY-G03V-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 17, 2017 Friday 10:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS; Version:1

**Length:** 291 words

**Byline:** Gavin Cordon

**Body**

Immigrants should not to be held to blame for Britain's economic difficulties, Jeremy Corbyn is warning.

In an address to the Runnymede Trust on Saturday, the Labour leaderwill say it is "vitally important" to protect Britain's diverse society following the referendum vote to leave the EU.

Speaking in Birmingham, he will say that in "volatile times", when people feel insecure in their jobs and about the future of the country, there is a tendency to look for people to blame.

"In the wake of the Brexit decision, it is vitally important that we value, celebrate and protect our diverse society," Mr Corbyn will say.

"***Syrian*** ***refugees*** did not trade in credit default swaps and crash the economy.

Read more

Split the Labour Party to save the United Kingdom, says Clive Lewis

Brexit unleashed a nationalism that has damaged the Union for good

British travellers are in the departure lounge - destination unknown

"East European builders and technicians did not slash funding for children's centres and libraries.

"What we need is leadership that does not stoop to preying on those anxieties and blaming people who look differently, talk a different language or dress differently, for the mess that we're in."

Mr Corbyn will accuse the Conservatives of pursuing an agenda favouring the elite at the expense of the majority - particularly those in black and Asian communities.

"Under my leadership, a Labour government will commit to eliminate racial inequality in our economy and society," he will say.

"It's indefensible that in Britain today, if you're black or Asian you are more likely to be living in poverty than if you're white," he will say.

"Or that young black men have experienced the worst long-term employment and economic outcomes in generations."

PA

**Load-Date:** March 17, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide; The ruling makes an impact across the country*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT0-TMB1-JCJY-G4V3-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 4, 2017 Saturday 12:27 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 331 words

**Byline:** Justin Carissimo

**Body**

A federal judge in Seattle has temporarily blocked President Trump's executive order banning entry into the United States from seven Muslim-majority countries.

US District Judge James Robert on Friday issued a temporary restraining order against the president's restrictions, siding with Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, who claims the immigration ban is unconstitutional.

Reacting to the ruling, White House attorneys issued a response brief, claiming that Washington state is unable to challenge the president and his intentions.

"Every President over the last thirty years has invoked this authority to suspend or impose restrictions on the entry of certain aliens or classes of aliens, in some instances including classifications based on nationality," the brief reads, claiming that foreign nationals do not have the constitutional right to enter the country.

In Attorney Ferguson's 90-page lawsuit, the attorney general claims the Trump administration is violating the Constitution's protections for religious freedom. The state of Minnesota has also joined the state of Washington's lawsuit which is backed by major companies including Amazon, Expedia, and institutions of higher-education.

New York and Virginia have also taken legal action against the president's ban.

Attorney Ferguson filed his lawsuit on Monday, promising to continue his fight against the ban.

"I firmly believe that no one is above the law, however, and I have a duty to protect all Washingtonians from unlawful actions that violate the Constitution," he said in a statement to CNBC on Monday. "I will continue this fight - all the way to the US Supreme Court if necessary - to uphold the rule of law."

President Trump's order banned immigration for 90 days from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. It also halted the admission of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely along with all other refugees for 120 days.

The order sparked confusion and outrage resulting in mass protests across the states.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2017

**End of Document**



[*London set for second Donald Trump protest as 'tens of thousands' expected to march against UK response to travel ban; Demonstrations opposing Mr Trump's state visit invite are plannedover the coming months*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MSV-VRR1-JCJY-G093-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 3, 2017 Friday 3:38 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 302 words

**Byline:** Peter Walker

**Body**

Thousands of protestors are once again expected to descend on London this weekend, to demonstrate againstDonald Trump's immigration ban and his scheduled visit to the UK.

Protest group, Stand Up To Racism said "tens of thousands" of people, including shadow home secretary Dianne Abbott, will join Saturday's march from the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square to Downing Street.

It follows more than last month's London Women's Marchwhich was attended by more than 100,000 peopleand an estimated 30,000 strong marchon Downing Streetearlier this week.

Protest outside Downing Street sees tens of thousands demonstrate against Trump's immigration ban

"There will be another massive show of opposition to Mr Trump in London with campaigners, including Muslim organisations, coming to central London to send a clear message to Theresa May that Trump's not welcome here," said Sabby Dhalu, from Stand Up To Racism.

The organisation has called the US President's travel ban as "an appalling attack on human rights" and said that it is "unacceptable that Theresa May has not come out and condemned this".

Read more

40 per cent of Americans want to impeach Trump

Mr Trump's executive order

suspended refugee resettlement in the US for 120 days and barred ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely. It also barred travel from s

even predominantly Muslimcountries

- Syria, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Sudan and Somalia.

Theresa May initially stopped short of criticising the executive order, but later called it "divisive and wrong".

An online petition entitled "Prevent Donald Trump from making a State Visit to the United Kingdom"has also garneredmore than 1.8 million signatures.

This weekend's march will be followed by a #StandUpToTrump summit in the capital later this month and demonstrations in London, Glasgow and Cardiff are also planned for18 March.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Judges grill lawyers over President Trump's travel ban; The three judges said a decision would come as soon as possible*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MTV-PCP1-F021-62XX-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 7, 2017 Tuesday 11:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 307 words

**Byline:** Justin Carissimo

**Body**

In the first major legal test of the new administration, attorneys argued over President Trump's travel ban on Tuesday night on whether to restore the refugee and visa ban against seven majority Muslim countries.

The president's order banned travelers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen from entering the United States for 90 days and all refugees for 120 days. However, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** would be barred indefinitely.

Three appellate judges from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco considered the fate of Trump's temporary travel ban, four days after it was blocked by a federal judge in Seattle. The three judges presiding over the case are William C Canby Jr, who was appointed by President Jimmy Carter; Judge Richard Clifton, who was appointed by President George W Bush; and Judge Michelle Taryn Friedland who was appointed by President Barack Obama.

In one exchange, Judge Friedland asked Justice Department lawyer August Flentje if the government could provided any evidence connecting the seven banned countries to terrorism. He responded by saying, "these proceedingshave been moving very fast."

Before the hearing, President Trump said that he hopes the case would go on to the Supreme Court while arguing that the order is important for the country. Halfway through the arguments, more than 120,000 viewers listened in via the court's official YouTube page.

Washington State Solicitor General Noah Purcell argued on behalf of Washington state that the motion would throw the country into chaos. "The executive order itself caused irreparable harm to our state and its people," he argued."We had longtime residents who couldn't travel without knowing if they can return."

The states of Washington and Minnesota brought the case against the Trump administration, which will likely reach the US Supreme Court.

**Load-Date:** February 8, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Labour peer has taken in Syrian refugee after visiting Calais jungle; Lord Bassam is believed to be the first UK politician to provide a home for refugees fleeing the Syrian conflict*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N1N-XT41-JCJY-G4CB-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 7, 2017 Tuesday 3:01 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS; Version:1

**Length:** 282 words

**Byline:** Tom Peck

**Body**

A senior Labour peer has taken a young Syrian refugee into his home after visiting the Calais 'jungle' camp.

Lord Bassam, the Labour Chief Whip in the Lords, said he and his wife had been living with the woman at their home for the last five months.

In an interview with The House magazine, Lord Bassam said: "I've done quite a bit of work on fundraising and stuff, supported by colleagues in here. My wife and I took quite a lot of stuff over there and we organised giving the kids in the Jungle football kits.

Read more

Closing down Dubs amendment will increase child trafficking, warn MPs

"We've currently got a young Syrian woman living with us. She's been living with us for four or five months now. She's lovely. She managed to get out of Syria to do a Masters and she's finishing that and she has now, partly with our help, managed to make an asylum application. So I think that's been a really positive thing."

Yvette Cooper and Nicola Sturgeon have both personally pledged to take in ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** but no politician apart from Lord Bassam is believed to have actually done so.

Read more

Children Commissioners 'deeply concerned' about end to refugee scheme

Gary Lineker and Kiera Knightley lead support for child refugee scheme

Refugee turned baroness calls on government to help child refugees

Lord Bassam criticised the government's decision to suspend the Dubs Amendment to resettle unaccompanied child refugees in the UK.

The peer said: "I'm really very disturbed by the way the Government's policies developed over refugees and their inability to grapple with the overwhelming humanitarian need of the kids. It really distresses me. That's why one of my political superheroes is Alf Dubs."

**Load-Date:** April 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Starbucks to hire 10,000 refugees in response to Trump's 'Muslim ban'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRY-FPJ1-JCJY-G2J5-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 30, 2017 Monday 7:44 AM GMT

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**Section:** BUSINESS

**Length:** 324 words

**Byline:** Josh Boak

**Body**

Starbucks says it will hire 10,000 refugees over the next five years, a response to President Donald Trump's indefinite suspension of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and temporary travel bans that apply to six other Muslim-majority nations.

Howard Schultz, the coffee retailer's chairman and CEO, said in a letter to employees Sunday that the hiring would apply to stores worldwide and the effort would start in the United States where the focus would be on hiring immigrants "who have served with U.S. troops as interpreters and support personnel."

Schultz, a supporter of Hillary Clinton during the presidential run, took aim at other parts of a Trump agenda focused on immigration, repealing former President Barack Obama's health care law and restructuring trade with Mexico. The letter said that Starbucks would help support coffee growers in Mexico, provide health insurance to eligible workers if the health care law is repealed and back an Obama-era immigration program that allows young immigrants who were brought to the country as children to apply for a two-year reprieve from deportation and a work permit.

Read more

Donald Trump's immigration policy knocks global markets

Republicans are worried about Donald Trump repealing Obamacare

Trump watches Finding Dory while America protests his immigration ban

The move reflects the increasing complexity that businesses face when dealing with the Trump administration. Trump has met with CEOs at Ford, General Motors and Boeing and asked them to create jobs in the United States, while touting each announcement about new factory jobs as a success even if those additions had been planned before his presidential victory.

But not all corporate leaders have embraced Trump. Schultz added that Starbucks would aim to communicate with workers more frequently, saying Sunday, "I am hearing the alarm you all are sounding that the civility and human rights we have all taken for granted for so long are under attack."

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide; The ruling makes an impact across the country*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT0-TMB1-JCJY-G4V4-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 4, 2017 Saturday 12:27 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 340 words

**Byline:** Justin Carissimo

**Body**

A federal judge in Seattle on Friday temporarily blocked President Trump's executive order banning entry into the United States from seven Muslim-majority countries.

US District Judge James Robert, who was appointed by President George Bush in 2003, issued a temporary restraining order against the president's restrictions, ruling that the ban would be immediately stopped nationwide.

"The Constitution prevailed today," Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson said in a statement. "No one is above the law-not even the president."

Reacting to the ruling, White House attorneys issued a response brief, claiming that Washington state is unable to challenge the president and his intentions.

"Every President over the last thirty years has invoked this authority to suspend or impose restrictions on the entry of certain aliens or classes of aliens, in some instances including classifications based on nationality," the brief reads, according to the

Seattle Times.

The brief also claims that foreign nationals do not have the constitutional right to enter the country.

In Attorney Ferguson's 90-page lawsuit, the attorney general claims the Trump administration is violating the Constitution's protections for religious freedom. The state of Minnesota has also joined the state of Washington's lawsuit which is backed by major companies including Amazon, Expedia, and institutions of higher-education.

New York and Virginia have also taken legal action against the president's ban.

Attorney Ferguson filed his lawsuit on Monday, promising to continue his fight against the ban.

"I want to be very clear, what the judge announced today was nationwide the president's executive order does not apply," he told reporters on Friday.

President Trump's order banned immigration for 90 days from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. It also halted the admission of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely along with all other refugees for 120 days.

The order sparked confusion and outrage resulting in mass protests across the states.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Russian ambassador shot: Gunman reportedly shouted 'We die in Aleppo, you die here'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MF2-BMC1-JCJY-G3S6-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 19, 2016 Monday 4:46 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 314 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

A gunman reportedly shouted "We die in Aleppo, you die here," before shooting the Russian ambassador to Ankara.

Andrey Karlov was shot in the back as he made a speech at a photo exhibit in the Turkish capital, with the Russian foreign ministry confirming that Mr Karlov has died

The Russian ambassador to Ankara was shot in an attack at an art gallery in the Turkish capital on Monday and the Russian RIA news agency said he had died of his wounds.

Read more

Russian ambassador shot dead in Ankara - latest updates

Video appears to show the alleged shooter shouting "don't forget Aleppo, Syria," according to local reports.

The Anadolu news agency said the gunman had been "neutralised" soon after the attack, which appeared to mark one of the most serious spillovers of the Syria conflict in Turkey. Relations between Moscow and Ankara have long been fraught over the conflict, the two supporting opposing sides.

The Russian foreign ministry confirmed the attack mounted as Ambassador Andrei Karlov made a speech at the opening of a photographic exhibition. Hurriyet newspaper said Turkish special forces had surrounded the building. NTV said three other people were wounded.

A Reuters witness said that while gunfire rang out for some time after the attack, it had now stopped. A Hurriyet newspaper reporter said the attacker chanted Islamist slogans.

Russia and Turkey have been involved in conflict in Syria across the border from where over two million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have settled. Turkey has been a staunch opponent of President Bashar al-Assad while Russia has deployed troops and its air force in support of the Syrian leader.

Tensions have escalated in recent weeks as Russian-backed Syrian forces have fought for control of the eastern part of the city of Aleppo, triggering a stream of refugees.

It was not immediately clear who carried out the attack.

Agencies contributed to this report

**Load-Date:** December 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*This is what life is actually like in countries included in Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban'; Just in case the new administration has forgotten, here is a rundown of exactly what some of these people are running from when they try to seek asylum in the United States*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MSD-D651-JCJY-G1K5-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 1, 2017 Wednesday 11:32 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 804 words

**Byline:** Selena Victor

**Body**

From Washington DC to cities across the UK, US President Donald Trump's 120 day ban on asylum seekers and indefinite suspension of all ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the country has been met with alarm.

Many feel that the ban has unjustly targeted Islamic countries, dubbing it the 'Muslim ban', and the rage directed at the administration is based upon the defence of the liberal values of freedom of movement and religion. But there is something else to be concerned about: this isn't about defending theoretical values, this is about practicalities.

As thedirector of a humanitarian organisation which works in Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Iraq and Sudan, I know exactly how dangerous life is in the majority of these countries. When the difficulties become too much, these citizens look abroad to find the safety they have been deprived of at home. As Merkel reminded Trump over the phone on Monday, the right to escape conflict and persecution has been enshrined in the Geneva Convention since 1951.

Thousands join London protests against Donald Trump travel ban

Just in case the new administration has forgotten, here is a rundown of exactly what these people are running from when they try to seek asylum in the United States.

Sudan

Having worked in Darfur myself over a decade ago, I have watched with mounting despair as the humanitarian crisis in the country has ground on, year after year, with scant attention from the outside world. Since independence, Sudan's history has been marked by high inflation, a shrinking economy and protracted conflict.

More than 2.3 million people have been displaced, many living in the most rudimentary camps. As fighting continues between government forces, rebels and militias of various stripes, many children are now reaching adolescence without having known anything else. Still more are destined to experience the same childhood - in the first half of 2014 nearly 400,000 people were newly displaced.

Syria

Around five million Syrians have been forced to flee their country, 70 per cent of whom are women and children, with the majority going to neighbouring countries - who are themselves struggling to cope. Meanwhile over six million are displaced within the country.

Syrians remaining in the country have faced chemical weapons and sieges, starvation and horrific attacks on civilian men women and children. Those displaced in to neighbouring countries have put enormous pressures on their host communities, such as Lebanon where one in four people are refugees.

In 2016, the Obama administration resettled 12,587 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Trump's executive order has halted this program indefinitely.

Iraq

Last year, violence and military operations took the lives of more than 16,000 Iraqi civilians, in one of the country's worst years since 2003, a full three million people are displaced within the country.

Mosul, the country's second city, was captured by Isis militants in 2014. Estimates have suggested that 350,000 children are trapped in siege-like conditions as the Iraqi campaign to retake the city continues. More than 160,000 civilians have been displaced since the start of the offensive in October.

Yemen

The humanitarian situation goes from horrific to worse in Yemen. The civil war hasn't reached its second anniversary and yet 80 per cent of the population - 21.2 million people - urgently need life-saving assistance. More than three million children and mothers are acutely malnourished inside the country, and the lack of nutrition is causing crippling impairments.

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Somalia

In Somalia, an estimated 350,000 to 1,000,000 Somalis have died in a civil war that has lasted nearly three decades. In fact, the world's largest refugee camp is in neighbouring Kenya - with over 300,000 Somalis living in the Dabaab camp.

With a young, frustrated population feeding into extremist groups, insurgency is being waged within its borders. Life expectancy is in the mid-50s, while an incredible 320,000 children are malnourished.

What we need to remember is that there is little danger to Americans from refugees from these countries - there is great danger to the people the world over from a rolling back of hard won and vital international laws around the protection of those forced to flee their homes in fear of their lives.

Selena Victor is Director of Policy and Advocacy at Mercy Corps, a leading global organisation working in over 40 countries

**Load-Date:** February 1, 2017

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[*Theresa May repeatedly refuses to condemn Donald Trump's immigration ban; 'The United States is responsible for the United States' policy on refugees,'Prime Minister says*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRK-5TB1-JCJY-G4GC-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 4:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 793 words

**Byline:** Joe Watts, Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Theresa May has repeatedly refused to condemn Donald Trump's ban on refugees and entry for citizens of seven Muslim-majority nations after meeting with Turkish leaders.

She was speaking just a day after meeting the new President in Washington, where the pair pledged their commitment to the "special relationship" between Britain and the US.

After agreeing a controversial £100 million fighter jet dealamid wide-ranging purges and security crackdowns following an attempted coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Ms May held a joint press conference with Prime Minister Binali Yildirim.

When May met Trump - five key points from the leaders' press conference

Their talks were overshadowed by global debate over Mr Trump's executive order to ban ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US indefinitely, halt all other asylum admissions for 120 days and suspendtravel visas for citizens of "countries of particular concern", including Syria, Iraq and other Muslim-majority nations.

Read more

Iraqi refugee targeted for helping US military detained at JFK airport

May agrees fighter jet deal with Erdogan despite human rights abuse

Most Isis victims Muslims despite Trump's plan for Christian refugees

​Faisal Islam, the political editor of Sky News, asked Ms May whether she viewed it as an "action of the leader of the free world".

The Prime Minister replied that she was "very pleased" to have met Mr Trump in Washington, before evading the question by hailing Turkey's reception of millions of refugees and Britain's support for its government and other nations surrounding Syria.

When pressed for a second time for her view by another British journalist, Ms May continued: "The United States is responsible for the United States' policy on refugees, the United Kingdom is responsible for the United Kingdom's policy on refugees."

Yvette Cooper, the former shadow Home Secretary, sent a letter to the Prime Minister urging her to echo condemnation from French and German ministers over the "deeply troubling"executive order.

Ed Miliband, the former Labour leader, said the Prime Minister's refusal to condemn Mr Trump's Muslim ban"is shocking, wrong and cannot stand".

He added: "It flies in the face of the values of people across Britain."

Mr Yildirim was more direct, calling the crisis a global issue and saying that UN members "cannot turn a blind eye to this issue and settle it by constructing walls".

"Nobody leaves their homes for nothing, they came here to save their lives and our doors were open...and we would do it again," he added. "If there is someone in need, you need to give them a helping hand to make sure they survive."

The Turkish Prime Minister brushed aside a question about wide-ranging human rights abuses in Turkey following the summer's attempted coup, seeing thousands of people arrested or forced to leave government and military posts amid reports of torture in state prisons.

Ms May also evaded questions on her ally's alleged abuses in the press conference, but had earlier urged Mr Erdogan to "sustain democracy by maintaining the rule of law and upholding its international human rights obligations".

Read more

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She and Mr Erdogan also discussed counter-terrorism, security, trade and migration in talks which stretched for an hour longer than scheduled.

Turkey has seen a succession of terror attacks by both Isis and Kurdish extremist groups since the start of the Syrian civil war, which caused millions of refugees to cross its border.

The US was among the countries resettling families from designated camps butMr Trump has suspended all refugee admissions to the US for 120 days as part of measures he claimed would "keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the US".

His order additionally banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely until "significant changes" are made, and halved the annual cap on refugees to 50,000.

The President's executive order also suspends travel visas for anyone from seven predominantly Muslim countries, including Syria, Iraq, Libya and Iran, from entering the US for at least 90 days.

He claimed his administration needed time to develop more stringent screening processes for refugees, immigrants and visitors.

It provoked outcry from the United Nations and NGOs working to stem the worst ever global refugee crisis, with more than 65 million people forced to flee their homes.

Amnesty International warned the move could have "catastrophic consequences", saying some of the worst fears about a Trump presidency were already being realised.

Salil Shetty, the group's secretary general, said: "These men, women and children are the victims of the same terror President Trump claims he wants to fight against. The irony beggars belief."

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*This is what life is actually like in countries included in Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban'; Just in case the new administration has forgotten, here is a rundown of exactly what some of these people are running from when they try to seek asylum in the United States*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MSD-JW01-F021-64TF-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 1, 2017 Wednesday 11:32 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 806 words

**Byline:** Selena Victor

**Body**

From Washington DC to cities across the UK, US President Donald Trump's 120 day ban on asylum seekers and indefinite suspension of all ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the country has been met with alarm.

Many feel that the ban has unjustly targeted Islamic countries, dubbing it the "Muslim ban", and the rage directed at the administration is based upon the defence of the liberal values of freedom of movement and religion. But there is something else to be concerned about: this isn't about defending theoretical values, this is about practicalities.

As thedirector of a humanitarian organisation which works in Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Iraq and Sudan, I know exactly how dangerous life is in the majority of these countries. When the difficulties become too much, these citizens look abroad to find the safety they have been deprived of at home. As Angela Merkel reminded Trump over the phone on Monday, the right to escape conflict and persecution has been enshrined in the Geneva Convention since 1951.

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Around five million Syrians have been forced to flee their country, 70 per cent of whom are women and children, with the majority going to neighbouring countries - who are themselves struggling to cope. Meanwhile more than six million are displaced within the country.

Syrians remaining in the country have faced chemical weapons and sieges, starvation and horrific attacks on civilian men, women and children. Those displaced in neighbouring countries have put enormous pressures on their host communities, such as Lebanon where one in four people are refugees.

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Selena Victor is director of policy and advocacy at Mercy Corps, a humanitarian aid agencyworking in more than40 countries

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[*Refugee crisis: Far-right's rise and dehumanising of conflict victims are greatest barriers to joint European action; As Europe faces the biggest refugee movement since the end of the Second World War, it is not only social media trolls using the language of infestation and invasion*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW8-5NN1-F021-63H4-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 8, 2015 Tuesday 7:28 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 1690 words

**Byline:** Charlotte McDonald-Gibson

**Body**

For a taste of what happens when Europe draws up the barricades, you need to travel to the wrong side of the fence on the tiny Spanish enclave of Melilla. Living rough on the Moroccan side are people from both poor African nations and war-ravaged Syria - speaking about the pain of leaving children behind, torment at the hands of Moroccan police, and their hope that Europe will offer them a safe future.

Cross over three fences topped with razor wire, trenches packed with more barbed wire, risk detection by motion sensors ready to trigger pepper spray, then face the truncheons of two police forces, and two things happen. First, the refugees and migrants can die, and are often injured and horribly scarred. But the most striking transformation in the dozen or so feet dividing Africa and the EU is that men, woman and children stop being seen as human.

On the other side of the fence, near the well-tended greens of a Spanish golf course, cameras capture the attempts to cross the border. Spanish authorities release this grainy footage of dark specks streaming over the fence at night, their eyes glowing an eerie green. On YouTube, some users post comments joking about a zombie apocalypse.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

As Europe faces the biggest refugee movement since the end of the Second World War, it is not only social media trolls using the language of infestation and invasion. British ministers speak of "marauders" and "swarms". Far-right politicians call for all borders to be closed. The leaders of Slovakia and Hungary openly cite the Muslim religion of many of the refugees as a reason to keep them out. It all feeds into a discourse of "us" and "them" which has robbed the people fleeing chemical weapons, barrel bombs and Islamic extremism of their humanity - and puts at risk the very values on which the EU was founded.

"Familiar issues of xenophobia, denial, and political short-termism afflict the refugees of 2015 just as they did those of the 1930s and beyond," the European Ombudsman Emily O'Reilly has reminded the bloc's leaders. "But what distinguishes the European Union of 2015 from Europe in the 1930s... is our much stated commitment to the rights of the human being."

But even after the picture of three-year-old Aylan al-Kurdi, drowned on a Turkish beach, brought an outpouring of sympathy, European leaders motivated by their histories, economies, and the strength of populist movements, bicker over the best course of action.

While Germany and Sweden open their doors to refugees, Hungary has started erecting a steel fence along its 110-mile border with Serbia. And it is not the first. Spain began the lock-out in Melilla, a territorial relic from colonial times. That border has been progressively reinforced since the early 2000s, resulting in the imposing rampart which symbolises the fortress that Europe has become.

Greece was next, erecting a fence along its 128-mile border with Turkey in 2011 when the country was in the grip of an economic crisis and support for anti-immigrant parties was rising. That sealed off the safest route to the EU just as Syria was plunging into its long and bloody civil war. So, instead, people started moving across the more mountainous frontier with Bulgaria, which also reinforced the border.

Read more: Where are all these refugees coming from and why?The grim reality faced by ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** stranded in LebanonDenmark discourages asylum seekers with newspaper ads in Lebanon

But building fences does not stop wars. People are just forced to take greater risks to find safety. So, more people took the most dangerous route: cramming into rickety vessels and crossing the Mediterranean from Libya. Last year saw a record 220,000 people attempt to cross by this route. More than 3,500 drowned. This year, hundreds of thousands have sailed from Turkey to the Greek islands, then trekked through the Balkans to try and reach a country that will welcome them with some humanity. Now, the sealing of the Hungary-Serbia border will deprive them of this route. Perhaps greater numbers will risk their lives casting off from Libya's shores, or take more risky routes.

Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the human rights body the Council of Europe, cites reports of Syrians travelling all the way up to the Arctic, crossing from Russia to Norway: "What is going on now is pushing people over the borders to their neighbours and this is a never-ending story, so that's why one has to have joint European action."

Sealing borders simply fuels the human smuggling that EU leaders vow to eradicate, without keeping anybody out. The problem is such policies can be easy vote-winners for politicians keeping an eye on growing far-right movements.

Not too long ago, leaders such as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban could count on a like-minded ally in North Africa. That was the late Libyan dictator, Muammar Gaddafi. In the summer of 2010, as the eurozone crisis fuelled support for extremist parties and migrants and refugees became easy scapegoats, Gaddafi made the EU an offer: give him $5bn a year or he would stop policing the Libyan coastline.

"We don't know what will be the reaction of the white and Christian Europeans faced with this influx of starving and ignorant Africans," he said during a visit to Rome. "We don't know if Europe will remain an advanced and united continent or if it will be destroyed, as happened with the barbarian invasions."

Despite expressing shock at the offer, the EU agreed to an assistance package for Libya and pledged to develop co-operation on migration. Then, in 2011, when the West backed a bombing campaign of Libya, Gaddafi made good on his threats and packed thousands of foreign workers - most in Libya legally - on to boats and cast them off towards Europe. For all his posturing, Gaddafi knew how to tap into old racial and religious prejudices for his own benefit. And there are plenty of forces in Europe today happy to dredge up these old hatreds for political gain.

"Xenophobia and anti-refugee sentiments are always a relatively easy way to conjure up support," says Jeff Crisp, a former senior official with UNHCR and now a research associate at the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University. "The issue has been quite cynically and quite carefully manipulated by the people on the right."

In Greece, supporters of the openly racist Golden Dawn give Nazi salutes for the camera and assault ethnic minorities. Politicians from Jobbik in Hungary make openly anti-Semitic statements, then hold their rallies in synagogues. In The Netherlands, opposition politician Geert Wilders accuses Muslims of "barbarism".

These parties do influence policy. Despite its liberal reputation, The Netherlands has some of the toughest asylum policies in Europe. In Denmark, the anti-immigration Danish People's Party is now in a coalition government and the country has recently cut benefits to recently-arrived refugees and taken out adverts in a Lebanese newspaper warning Syrians not to expect a warm welcome. In Britain, the government has refused to take part in any EU-wide relocation scheme for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

This month, EU leaders will have to decide whether or not to back binding national quotas for resettling ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - a move most people working on refugee issues agree will help save lives. It remains unclear if the opposition from the Eastern European nations will scuttle the latest effort to forge an EU-wide policy rooted in humanity rather than security. Instead of jumping on the populist bandwagon, Mr Jagland says mainstream politicians should stand up to the hatred and explain the European values. "If one is running after these radical forces then they will win. You can never catch up with them."

Read more: Munich's citizens welcome refugees with open armsSyrian child refugees 'to be deported at age 18', says AshdownHow should homeowners go about helping to provide shelter?

And if the xenophobic forces are able to drive the policy of the bloc, it threatens the EU's cherished reputation as a haven of human rights.

Majid Hussain was one of the thousands of people Gaddafi forced to sea in 2011. He fled Nigeria when he was 15-years-old after seeing his father killed by a Christian mob. He had been trying to rebuild his life in Libya when he was cast off in the Mediterranean. After two days at sea, he found himself in Italy, which welcomed with a strip search before shuttling him between cramped refugee camps. After a two-year wait, he was granted asylum.

"Here is the democracy that people are dying to have - this is democracy where nobody respects you, you don't even have dignity," he says.

His faith in Europe was somewhat restored when he came into contact with citizen movements providing support, and he has found friends among Italian lawyers offering their services for free and the young people helping him find cheap accommodation.

It is movements like these - citizens opening their homes to refugees, crowds at railway stations applauding the Syrians in their march to safety, the hundreds of thousands of people signing The Independent's petition urging a more humane response to the crisis - which give both Mr Crisp and Mr Jagland hope that Europe is re-discovering its values.

While Germany has seen neo-Nazis marching in the streets, Chancellor Angela Merkel has refused to shift her policy of an open door to all those seeking sanctuary. In France, where the Front National has growing support, President François Hollande has reversed his position and is now supporting EU-wide quotas. And David Cameron has agreed to accept 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

"European and British asylum policy... has essentially been overturned by refugees themselves doing their own thing saying we're not going to stay in Budapest... and by the shifting of public opinion," says Mr Crisp.

Time will tell if the policy shifts are lasting, but right now Fortress Europe may be lowering the drawbridge a little.

Tomorrow: Robert Fisk examines the crisis in the context of the great migratory waves of history

Click here to sign The Independent's Change.org petition

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[*German police arrest three Syrian men 'sent to Europe by Isis to carry out terror attacks'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KPB-17X1-JCJY-G3P1-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 13, 2016 Tuesday 10:06 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 312 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

German police have arrested three Syrian men suspected of being sent to Germany by Isis to carry out new terror attacks.

Prosecutors said the three suspectswere dispatched last year"either to carry out a mission that they had been informed about or to wait for further instructions".

They were named as Mahir al-H, 17, Ibrahim M, 18, and Mohamed A, 18, with their surnames redacted according to German privacy laws.

"Concrete missions or orders have not so far been found in the course of investigations carried out so far," a spokesperson for the federal prosecutor said.

The arrests were made during a series of raids by 200 officersin the state of Schleswig-Holstein, with police reportedlysearching the suspects' homes.

Read more

Isis fighter reveals group's plan to spread even after defeat in Iraq and Syria and claims collusion with Turkey

Isis commanders in Syria 'directed failed plot to launch new terror attack in Paris'

Isis plot to attack UK foiled as arrests by Scotland Yard thwart 'significant' operation

Investigators said the 17-year-old suspect had been trained to use guns and handle explosives in Isis' de-facto capital of Raqqabefore crossing into Europe on the refugee route from Turkey to Greece.

The trio, carrying false passports, made their way to Germany in November and have received four-figure payments in American dollars from Isis, as well as mobile phones with pre-installed communication apps.

More than a million refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Germany last year, when Chancellor Angela Merkel opened the border to all Syrians fleeing the country's civil war.

Germany has been targeted in a spate of recent attacks, including three carried out by asylum seekers, of which two were claimed by Isis.

Several terror suspects posing as ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have been arrested in operations so far this year, although no convictions have been announced.

**Load-Date:** September 13, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Theresa May repeatedly refuses to condemn Donald Trump's immigration ban; 'The United States is responsible for the United States' policy on refugees,'Prime Minister says*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRK-5TB1-JCJY-G4H2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 4:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 794 words

**Byline:** Joe Watts, Lizzie Dearden

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She was speaking just a day after meeting the new President in Washington, where the pair pledged their commitment to the "special relationship" between Britain and the US.

After agreeing a controversial £100 million fighter jet dealamid wide-ranging purges and security crackdowns following an attempted coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Ms May held a joint press conference with Prime Minister Binali Yildirim.

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Their talks were overshadowed by global debate over Mr Trump's executive order to ban ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US indefinitely, halt all other asylum admissions for 120 days and suspended travel visas for citizens of "countries of particular concern", including Syria, Iraq and other Muslim-majority nations.

Read more

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**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

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[*Aleppo: Children killed while trying to escape battles between rebels and regime forces advancing on Syrian city; Save the Children warns families are risking their lives attempting to cross frontlines*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M9F-5X91-F021-634M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 2, 2016 Friday 3:47 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 789 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Children are being killed while trying to escape battles raging in the Syrian city of Aleppo, humanitarian groups have warned as tens of thousands of people flee the government's advance.

Save the Children said dozens of people have died attempting to flee eastern Aleppo, where the situation for families under constant bombardment and with no proper shelter and almost no food or fuel is "desperate".

The group reported children being separated from their parents and being killed or injured when venturing into the open in attempts to reach safety. At least 70 people are said to have died in recent days while trying to cross frontlines to safety.

At least 45 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** killed by regime missile while trying to flee Aleppo

Sonia Khush, Save the Children's Syria director, said: "Families should not be forced to leave their homes and communities under the threat of bombs and starvation.

Read more

Clown of Aleppo 'dies in air strike' as Syrian government closes in

Aleppo risks becoming 'one giant graveyard'

At least '45 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** killed by regime artillery' while fleeing

"The reality, however, is that international aid has not been allowed in to the city for almost five months, and conditions have become so desperate that people are taking deadly risks to flee under fire and cross frontlines into an uncertain fate.

"More children are going to die trying to reach safety in the coming days if we do not urgently establish safe, internationally monitored routes. The world has utterly failed the children of East Aleppo, but the warring parties have an obligation to protect them now in their hour of greatest need."

Bashar al-Assad's forces and allies from Russia, Iran and Hezbollah are advancing on rebel territory, retaking the districtof Hanano and parts of Karm al-Qaterji and al-Hilwania in a campaign that has so far displaced 31,000 according to the UN.

There have been reports of Bashar al-Assad's forces shelling civilians, killing dozens of refugees in one street earlier this week, as well as men and boys being detained by government troops or forced into service.

"If you don't leave these areas quickly you will be annihilated," warned leaflets dropped by Syrian aircraft.

"Save yourselves. You know that everyone has left you alone to face your doom and have offered you no help."

There were also warnings from the UN that some rebel factions are preventing people from leaving areas under their control.

Read more

Aleppo 'could witness worst massacre since World War Two'

Displaced residents interviewed on Syrian state television reported abuses by opposition groups, with one woman saying her son was shot dead as he attempted to flee their territory.

Syrian and Russian authorities have repeatedly claimed to set up routes of safe passage for civilians but after five years of civil war and months under siege and intense bombardment, the pledges have been met with fear and distrust.

Save the Children called for the UN and International Committee of the Red Cross to be allowed to monitor the movement of people and immediately implement a 72-hour pause in fighting to allow aid in to the remaining population.

At a heated meeting of the UN Security Council on Wednesday, Stephen O'Brien, the under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said international law had been systematically disregarded in the ongoing civil war, with Aleppo becoming the "apex" of a growing catalogue of horrors.

Syrian children, such as this oneat a shelter in Jibrin, face severe dangers(AFP/Getty Images)

"For the sake of humanity, we call on, we plead, with the parties, and those with influence, to do everything in their power to protect civilians and enable access to the besieged part of eastern Aleppo before it becomes one giant graveyard," he said. "There are no limits or red lines left to cross."

Matthew Rycroft, the UK's Permanent Representative to the UN, blamed Russia for vetoing resolutions to stop the violence in what he called "the most horrific conflict of our lifetimes".

But Vladimir Putin's government has repeated Syria's assertions that it is fighting "terrorists" - a term used by the Assad regime to refer to all opposition groups.

Syrian and Russian media have been hailing the "liberation" and "stabilisation" of eastern Aleppo, while highlighting rebel violations like a rocket attack that was reported by state media to have killed six civilians including two children in western Aleppo on Thursday.

As government forces continued to close in, rebel groups announced the creation of an "Army of Aleppo" to fight the advance. Among the members listed on propaganda channels were local opposition fighters, Turkmen groups and Islamists including Jaysh al-Islam and Ahrar al-Sham.

Additional reporting by AP

**Load-Date:** December 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Justin Trudeau clears schedule to celebrate wedding anniversary with Sophie Gregoire; Proving a work-life balance is important even when you're running a country*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JVX-JN11-JCJY-G3S9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 26, 2016 Thursday 6:37 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 287 words

**Byline:** Olivia Blair

**Body**

Justin Trudeau has revolutionised many of the customs associated with a world leader, from balancing babies on one hand, displaying impressive yoga movesto physically going down to the airport to welcome ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** arriving in Canada.

Now, he's proved that work-life balance is important for everybody, regardless of your job.

Mr Trudeau cleared his all-important schedule on Wednesday to celebrate his 11th wedding anniversary with wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau.The actual anniversary is in a few days time.

According to Mr Trudeau's official itinerary of his trip to Japan, Wednesday was reserved for a "private day" while all other days were filled with important meetings, trade visits, media briefings and the grouping of the G7 members at Ise-Shima on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters, the Prime Minister said: "The fact of the matter is we've been working extremely hard today and will be at the G7 meetings on Thursday and Friday, and in the middle of all this, I'm taking a moment to celebrate - on personal funds - my wedding anniversary with my wife," reports the

Canadian Press.

Read more

Justin Trudeau apologises 'unreservedly' for elbowing opposition MP in parliament

Sophie Grégoire Trudeau prompts debate in Canada after asking for more assistance

Justin Trudeau shuts down sarcastic reporter with an impromptu explanation of quantum computing

"This is the kind of work-life balance that I've often talked about as being essential in order to be able to be in service of a country with all one's very best and thats certainly something I'm going to continue to make sure we do."

Trudeau and Gregoire married on May 28, 2005 in Montreal, they have three children Xavier, Ella-Grace and Hadrian.

**Load-Date:** May 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*President Erdogan criticises West for prioritising gay and animal rights over refugees; 'Shame on those who in the West divert their sensitivity to the so-called freedoms, rights, and law shown in the debate over gay marriage away from Syrian women, children, and innocents in need of aid'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JST-1DJ1-JCJY-G07J-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 16, 2016 Monday 8:44 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 289 words

**Byline:** Alexandra Sims

**Body**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has lambasted Western countries, claiming they care more about gay and animal rights than the fate of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Speaking at a ceremony in north-west Turkey on Friday, Mr Erdogan accused the West of possessing a mindset "remnant of slavery and colonialism".

Mr Erdogan said: "Shame on those who in the West divert their sensitivity to the so-called freedoms, rights, and law shown in the debate over gay marriage away from Syrian women, children, and innocents in need of aid,"

Anadolu Agency

reports.

"Shame on those who divert their sensitivities to the living space of the whales in the seas, seals, [and] turtles away from the right to life of 23 million Syrians. Shame on those who put their security, welfare [and] comforts ahead of other people's struggle to survive.

"Shame on the slavery-and-colonial-era mindsets that set their eyes firstly on incoming refugees' money in their wallets, and jewellery on their arms and necklaces," he added, seemingly referring to Denmark's plan earlier this year to confiscate valuables from incoming refugees to cover the costs of caring for them.

Around 2.7 million Syrians who have fled civil war are being housed in camps inside Turkey.

The Syrian conflict, which has raged since 2011, has driven more than four million people - a sixth of the country's population - to seek safety in other countries, making it the largest refugee crisis in a quarter century, according to the UN.

The president's latest anti-West remarks come amid a standoff with the European Union over its demand that Turkey amend its anti-terrorism laws to secure visa-free travel in Europe for Turks.

Additional reporting by Associated Press

**Load-Date:** May 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Aleppo: Children killed while trying to escape battles between rebels and regime forces advancing on Syrian city; Save the Children warns families are risking their lives attempting to cross frontlines*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M9D-NSM1-JCJY-G1VR-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 2, 2016 Friday 3:47 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 796 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Children are being killed while trying to escape battles raging in the Syrian city of Aleppo, humanitarian groups have warned as tens of thousands of people flee the government's advance.

Save the Children said dozens of people have died attempting to flee eastern Aleppo, where the situation for families under constant bombardment and with no proper shelter and almost no food or fuel is "desperate".

The group reported children being separated from their parents and being killed or injured when venturing into the open in attempts to reach safety. At least 70 people are said to have died in recent days while trying to cross frontlines to safety.

At least 45 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** killed by regime missile while trying to flee Aleppo

Sonia Khush, Save the Children's Syria director, said: "Families should not be forced to leave their homes and communities under the threat of bombs and starvation.

Read more

Clown of Aleppo 'dies in air strike' as Syrian government closes in

Aleppo risks becoming 'one giant graveyard'

At least '45 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** killed by regime artillery' while fleeing

"The reality however is that international aid has not been allowed in to the city for almost five months, and conditions have become so desperate that people are taking deadly risks to flee under fire and cross frontlines into an uncertain fate.

"More children are going to die trying to reach safety in the coming days if we do not urgently establish safe, internationally monitored routes. The world has utterly failed the children of East Aleppo, but the warring parties have an obligation to protect them now in their hour of greatest need."

Bashar al-Assad's forces and allies from Russia, Iran and Hezbollah are advancing on rebel territory, retaking the districtof Hanano and parts of Karm al-Qaterji and al-Hilwania in a campaign that has so far displaced 31,000 according to the UN.

There have been reports of Bashar al-Assad's forces shelling civilians, killing dozens of refugees in one street earlier this week, as well as men and boys being detained by government troops or forced into service.

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"Save yourselves. You know that everyone has left you alone to face your doom and have offered you no help."

There were also warnings from the UN that some rebel factions are preventing people from leaving areas under their control.

Read more

Aleppo 'could witness worst massacre since World War Two'

Displaced residents interviewed on Syrian state television reported abuses by opposition groups, with one woman saying her son was shot dead as he attempted to flee their territory.

Syrian and Russian authorities have repeatedly claimed to set up routes of safe passage for civilians but after five years of civil war and months under siege and intense bombardment, the pledges have been met with fear and distrust.

Save the Children called for the UN and International Committee of the Red Cross to be allowed to monitor the movement of people and immediately implement a 72-hour pause in fighting to allow aid in to the remaining population.

At a heated meeting of the UN Security Council on Wednesday, said Stephen O'Brien, the Under-Secretary-General for humanitarian affairs, said international law had been systematically disregarded in the ongoing civil war, with Aleppo becoming the "apex" of a growing catalogue of horrors.

A Syrian child, who fled with his family from rebel-held areas of Aleppo, at a shelter in Jibrin on 1 December (AFP/Getty Images)

"For the sake of humanity, we call on, we plead, with the parties, and those with influence, to do everything in their power to protect civilians and enable access to the besieged part of eastern Aleppo before it becomes one giant graveyard," he said. "There are no limits or red lines left to cross."

Matthew Rycroft, the UK's Permanent Representative to the UN, blamed Russia for vetoing resolutions to stop the violence in what he called "the most horrific conflict of our lifetimes".

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Syrian and Russian media have been hailing the "liberation" and "stabilisation" of eastern Aleppo, while highlighting rebel violations like a rocket attack that was reported by state media to have killed six civilians including two children in western Aleppo on Thursday.

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Additional reporting by AP

**Load-Date:** December 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Dalai Lama says there are 'too many refugees in Europe'; 'When we look into the face of every single refugee, especially the children and women, we can feel their suffering'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JX5-C6T1-F021-6056-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 1, 2016 Wednesday 12:39 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 293 words

**Byline:** Max Bearak

**Body**

The Dalai Lama, widely known for his compassionate views, has said that

"too many" refugees are seeking asylum in Europe, according to German news.

Speaking to reporters in the de facto capital of Tibet's exiled government, he said:

"Europe, for example Germany, cannot become an Arab country," inan interview withGerman newspaperFrankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. "Germany is Germany. There are so many that in practice it becomes difficult."

It was an unexpected extension of sympathy for a sentiment that has found fertile ground among nationalist groups. The Dalai Lama, who often speaks of humanity's need to acknowledge its "oneness", is a refugee himself. After Tibetans rose up against Chinese limitations on their autonomy in 1959, the current (and 14th) Dalai Lama led tens of thousands of his followers to India, where they and their descendants have lived since. An estimated 120,000 Tibetans live in India, and those born in the country can vote.

"From a moral point of view, too, I think that the refugees should only be admitted temporarily," the Dalai Lama said.

Moment huge ship full of refugees capsizes

The bulk of Arab refugees he was referencing are fleeing Syria's brutal and seemingly endless civil war, and its spillover into Iraq. Germanyhasa populationof 80 million people and has accepted over 1 million refugees. Before the war inSyria, Lebanon had a population of more than 4 million people. It has since taken in well over a million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Beyond the skepticism, the Dalai Lama did convey his characteristic compassion.

"When we look into the face of every single refugee, especially the children and women, we can feel their suffering," he said. "The goal should be that they return and help rebuild their countries."

©

Washington Post

**Load-Date:** June 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*EU countries refusing to accept refugees 'could be fined hundreds of millions of pounds'; The measures are reportedly designed to address growing frustrations that some countries are shouldering the responsibility of the refugee crisis considerably more than others*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JP6-CRN1-JCJY-G1JV-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 4, 2016 Wednesday 2:32 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 310 words

**Byline:** Siobhan Fenton

**Body**

European countries which refuse to take in refugees may be fined hundreds of millions of pounds, it has been reported.

The proposal is reportedly due to be announced by Jean-Claude Junker on behalf ofthe European Commission today as part of a package of reforms of the EU's asylum rules amid the ongoing refugee crisis.

The draft law willsuggest countries pay "a solidarity contribution" of 250,000 Euros per asylum applicant which it does not take,

The Daily Telegraph

reports

. The money would be paid to states which have accepted refugees.

The Dublin convention, which holds countries responsible for refugees which arrive within their borders, would still apply outside of the fining system.

The potential fines are designed to address growing tensions that the responsibility for the refugee crisis is disproportionately falling on a small number of countries, in particular Greece, Italy and Germany.

Judith Dennis from the British Refugee Council told

The Independent

: "Its painfully clear that the current system for protecting refugees in Europe simply isn't working and that more needs to be done to help share responsibility for sheltering refugees more evenly."

A redistribution scheme was introduced to alleviate some of this pressure but has been described as flawed and faltering;as out of 160,000 refugees, just 937 were resettled within the first six months of the scheme. Countries including Hungary and Slovakia refused to participate citing a need to protect local cultural and customs.

The UK would be exempt from the fines due to historically not subscribing to the European Commission's direction on justice matters. In 2015, the UK received 38,878 asylum applications and resettled 1,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** UK under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme. David Cameron has pledged to accept 20,000 Syrians over the course of the next five years.

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Lawyer: released Brussels suspect had a credible alibi*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JDN-JJT1-JCS0-D2RS-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

March 30, 2016 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 22

**Length:** 310 words

**Byline:** LEO CENDROWICZ BRUSSELS

**Body**

The suspect charged and then released over last week''s bombing attacks in Brussels was let go because he had "a credible alibi", his lawyer said yesterday.

Lawyer Olivier Martins said there was no forensic evidence tying his client, Faycal Cheffou, to the attacks in Brussels Airport, unlike with other suspects, where DNA and fingerprinting was used. He was at home, and that could be confirmed by telephone calls, Mr Martins said. It was possible to confirm where he was with his mobile phone at that moment and at that moment he was at home.

Local Belgian media said Mr Cheffou was the man seen in airport security footage wearing a white coat and hat. Mr Martins said Mr Cheffou was arrested on Thursday and charged on Saturday on the basis of testimony by the taxi driver, who drove the suspected bombers to the airport.

Mr Cheffou, who claims to be an independent journalist, was already known to Brussels police for attempted to recruit jihadists from the wave of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** that came into the city last September. Although Brussels mayor Yvan Mayeur described him as "dangerous", local prosecutors refused to intervene, saying any action could infringe Mr Cheffou's rights.

Meanwhile, the FBI warned the Dutch authorities six days before the Brussels attacks about the criminal and extremist background of suicide bombers Ibrahim and Khalid El Bakraoui.

Dutch Justice minister Ard van der Steur told the Dutch parliament that the Belgian and Dutch police services had discussed the matter on March 17, five days before the attacks, which killed at least 35 people. Belgian police deny receiving any information from the FBI directly or via the Dutch.

Brussels Airport could partially reopen today with temporary check-in desks, but it will be months before it is fully ready, the airport's CEO Arnaud Feist said. It is estimated to run at 20% capacity.

**Load-Date:** March 29, 2016

**End of Document**



[*German minister warns Italy over refugee policy; 'We hope that it will not have to be necessary to decide on such matters'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JG7-NTX1-JCJY-G52C-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 6, 2016 Wednesday 5:29 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 339 words

**Byline:** Serina Sandhu

**Body**

The German Interior Minister has said Italy's access to the important Brenner Pass may be compromised in a warning to the country to refrain from sending migrants and refugees towards the north ofEurope.

Thomas de Maiziere said Rome could not "simply guide people north" toAustria and Germanyas it had done so in the past, and added: "Italy cannot depend on Brenner always staying open."

He said Italy could face restrictions on traffic along Brenner - an important passage for goods travelling from the country to Austria and other nations in the north of Europe.

Read more

75% of Calais 'Jungle' refugees have 'experienced police violence'

Turkey is 'illegally forcing refugees back to Syria'

Germany drafts proposals to make refugees integrate

Britain and other wealthy countries 'failing ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

In preparation for the arrival of more migrants andrefugees who have travelled from countries in north Africa such a Libya, across the Mediterranean toItaly, Austria has previously said tighter border controls may be needed at the crossing between the two countries. Some people then use Austria as a way of reachingGermany.

Depending on the number of people attempting to reach Austria, border control methods could include vehicle checks and barriers for crowd control.

On Sunday, the Brenner Pass was the scene of a clash between Austrian police and protestors demonstrating against the closure of the border. As the peaceful march neared an end, some protestors attempted to break through a line of police in riot gear.

But speaking about the possibility of tighter border controls to ORF television while in Austria on Tuesday, Mr de Maiziere said: "We hope that it will not have to be necessary to decide on such matters."

"That is assuming that the number coming to Italy are not too high. That is assuming that Italy fulfils its obligations."

Additional reporting by Reuters

**Load-Date:** April 6, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Hungary's government claims there are 900 'no-go areas' in Europe overrun with migrants; 'We do not know how many of them [refugees] are disguised as terrorists' - Hungarian government website*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JF9-MFP1-JCJY-G03R-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 2, 2016 Saturday 1:36 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 308 words

**Byline:** Matt Payton

**Body**

The Hungarian government has claimed there are 900 "no-go areas" acrossEurope, including in London, that areoverrun by migrants.

In an apparent attempt tobuild domestic opposition toEU migrant quota plan, thegovernment launched a website

claiming there are "no-go zones" in Paris, Stockholm and London where "the norms of the host society...barely prevail".

The EU quota plan isto share out 160,000 migrants among each of the member states.

Currently,only1,100 have been relocated, with Hungary taking none.

Read more

Three people stabbed in riots amid 'chaotic' conditions in Greece

Turkey 'shooting dead' ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as they flee civil war

Refugee numbers rise in Italy as Turkey deadline approaches

Germany drafts proposals to make refugees integrate

The website states:"The mandatory European quotas increase the terrorist risk in Europe and imperils our culture

"Illegal migrants cross the borders unchecked, so we do not know who they are and what their intentions are.

"We do not know how many of them are disguised as terrorists."

When asked

where the "no-go areas" are in London,

government spokesman, Zoltán Kovács said: "Everything is based on publicly available data and sources."

The Hungarian government claims 751 of these no-go areas are in France, quoting a 2006 blog post as evidence.

ViktorOrbán, Hungary's Prime Minister, has refused to take part in the EU's quota plan saying last year: "

In three years we might not know whether we are in London, Paris or Budapest."

Hungaryannounced a public referendum on the EU-quota with the question:

"Do you want the EU to prescribe the mandatory relocation of non-Hungarian citizens to Hungary without the approval of the Hungarian parliament?"

**Load-Date:** April 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian orphan refugee sends message of condolence to Brussels; 'I feel in you, stay strong'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JDG-XXP1-F021-64B5-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 29, 2016 Tuesday 8:50 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 287 words

**Byline:** Jess Staufenberg

**Body**

An orphaned Syrian refugee has sent a message of condolenceto the citizens of Brussels, saying he too knows the pain of losing loved ones.

Osama, who is now living in Lebanon, wrote a letter posted to Facebookto let people in the Belgian capital know he was thinking of them.

His cousin Hussein Mar, who posted the message to Facebook,wrote: "My orphan cousin Osama, his parents died in Syria in a bomb, [and he] wanted to give [a] message for the people in Brussels.

"'Dear Brussels, my parents died in a bomb in Syria also, I feel in you, stay strong.'"

Osama signed off, "Syrian refugee in Lebanon."

via a Syrian refugee I know in Germany. #BrusselsAttackspic.twitter.com/2ZakZYjRZf

- Sally Hayden (@sallyhayd) March 22, 2016

Hussein urged people to share the message, which depicts his cousin sat on the floor holding the handwritten letter in his hands.

The image has been shared and liked more than 200 times so far.

At presentabout 1.3 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have fled over the border to their neighbour, Lebanon, according to the UN Refugee Agency.

Lebanon has taken more refugees than any other country in the world and has not closed its borders, while its new inhabitants reportedly have access to all basic services.

Yet families are reportedly growing increasingly vulnerable in the country as the 4.5 million population of Lebanon struggles to support them.

About 470,000 Syrians have been killed since 2011 when president Bashar al-Assad began a brutal crackdown on those who rebelled against his regime, a situation worsened bythe rise of Isis in Iraq and Syria.

In Europe, 35 people were killed and more than 300 others were wounded when at least four attackers bombed Brussels Airport and a metro station in Belgium.

**Load-Date:** March 29, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Video shows Syrian refugee children's joy while sledging for the first time; The three siblings and their mother had fled Syria 16 months ago*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HX1-CM11-F021-6294-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 21, 2016 Thursday 12:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 279 words

**Byline:** Charlie Atkin

**Body**

Video showsthree Syrian refugee children squealing with delight as they toboggan for the first time.

Ansam, 13, Ibrahim, 10, Dalya, 9, and their mother, Amal Alkhalaf, 41, fled Homs, Syria 16 months ago and arrived in Canada three weeks ago.

The three siblings can be seen in the video thoroughly enjoying themselves as they speed down the slope, accompanied by David McNab, a sponsor who helped relocate the family.

Now settled in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, the children are now registered at a school where three more of their sponsors are teachers.

"We are overjoyed to be able to make a difference for this family and we feel incredibly grateful for the chance to know them," Mr McNab told

The Independent

.

"It has been the best thing that has happened to most of us in a very long time."

Macleans magazine, who featured the family and their sponsors on a recent cover, report that the family is adjusting well to Canadian life.

On a visit to the town, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met the family along with other ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who havesettled there.

He later tweeted a photo of the family and a signed copy of the cover they appeared on.

"Family 417" is safe in Peterborough - and had a special gift for me today. Welcome to Canada, Amal Alkhalaf. pic.twitter.com/LZ1EmEDgLH

- Justin Trudeau (@JustinTrudeau) January 17, 2016

Mr McNab, an Ontario Provincial Police officer, hopes that others might see how easy it is to help similar families.

"Every child deserves a chance to be free and happy. The solution to the problem is not as complicated as we might think."

His group is currently working on plans to sponsor another family.

**Load-Date:** January 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Continuous attacks are changing the way of life on the continent; The approaching elections in Germany, France and Americawill have one theme in common:societies and political systems struggling to come to terms with a disaffected population that feels excluded and ignored*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K98-HG11-JCJY-G1KY-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 23, 2016 Saturday 2:32 PM GMT

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**Section:** EDITORIALS

**Length:** 565 words

**Byline:** Editorial

**Body**

The fact that the lone gunman, Ali Sonboly,who took at least 10 lives in Munich was, at least nominally, a Muslim, and that he committed an act of terror did not make this an act of Islamist terrorism.

Still less did it constitute an attack organised or even inspired by Isis, given the young man's Iranian and Shia heritage. That does not mean, though, that it lacks any political consequence or meaning.

Germany has shown the world a moral lead in its attitude to the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***, and much of the influx has been centred on Munich and Bavaria more widely. This outstanding humanity has not been popular in all quarters, and the fact that this deranged young man declared himself a German, and that he was born and brought up in Germany, will do nothing to prevent the exploitation of his otherness for political ends.

What has happened in Munich?

Like the lone young Afghan lashing out with knives, it can only feed Islamophobia, just as incidents in Nice, Paris, Brussels, Orlando and in Florida will do so.

The approaching elections in Germany, France and the US, though so different in many ways, will haveone theme in common with the British EU referendum: of societies and political systems struggling to come to terms with a disaffected population that feels excluded, "left behind" and ignored by political elites. They represent a receptive audience for demagogic leaders on the make. The rise of Ukip and Donald Trump is well documented. Noone would be greatly surpised if Marine Le Pen's Front National and the Alternative for Germany partyalso made gains at the ballot box.

Disaffection is curiously mirrored between what's termed the "white working class"and among the sons and daughters of migrants who feel alienated from their societies. For neither have the doctrines of democracy, globalisation and progressive politics delivered jobs and the wherewithal to share in the prosperity enjoyed by others.So they look to do something about it. When the disaffection becomes a form of mental illness, compounded often by family breakdown and drug and alcohol abuse, the turn of events becomes unpredictable.

It becomes especially violent, with the capacity to take the lives of others with the suicidal perpetrators in places where guns are easily obtained. The point about that in the American context hardly needs labouring. What seems to have been happening in continental Europe is an enlarged trade in weapons from the East, and especially from the Balkans wars of 20 years ago.

The principle of free movement of people and the passport-free Schengen zone may, in truth, have comparatively little to do with this, but those pillars of the EU will come under intense pressure once again. Even Angela Merkel, whose calm leadership seems to transcend the usual laws of politics, may not be able to resist the pressure to change things. The British have already decided to; the Hungarians are holding a referendum on migrant control soon.

The fact is that a frightening set of factors have conspired to create the conditions for an almost permanent scale of low-level violence in towns and cities in Europe that have been free from trouble since 1945. There will be no mass insurgencies as we see in Iraq, say, and in their the day-to-day experiences Europeans will be less bothered than, say, Israelis or the Northern Irish during the Troubles.

But a way of life is changing.

**Load-Date:** July 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron faces House of Lords defeat on refugee children; Peer who presented billrefusesto back down over demand that children who have already made it to Europe should be allowed into Britain*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JBF-5TT1-F021-649P-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 19, 2016 Saturday 10:13 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 260 words

**Byline:** Tom McTague

**Body**

David Cameron is facing another defeat in the House of Lords over proposals to force the Government to give sanctuary to 3,000 refugee children currently in Europe.

An amendment to the Immigration Bill, which would compel the Government to accept its "fair share" of children who have made their way from Syria and other countries to Europe, will be voted on the afternoon of 21 March.

The proposal, which is backed by Labour and Liberal Democrat peers, has been laid by the Labour peer Lord Dubs, who arrived in Britain as a lone six-year-old refugee in 1939.

Read more

Tory MPs tell David Cameron to take more refugee children from Europe

The Government has set up a scheme to take refugee children from camps in the Middle East - and insists that helping those who have made it to Europe will only encourage more to come.

The Independent on Sunday

understands that the Home Secretary, Theresa May, has held talks with Lord Dubs in a bid to find a compromise, but the peer refused to back down over his demand that children who have already made it to Europe should be allowed into Britain.

Lord Dubs said: "All the evidence is that there are thousands of unaccompanied children in Europe. Taking 3,000 is an entirely reasonable thing to do - it would be Britain's fair share. The amendment has huge public support, reflecting Britain's humanitarian instincts."

A Government spokesman said: We have committed to taking in 20,000 of the most vulnerable ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. In addition, we asked the UNHCR to identify children [in the region] who can be resettled in the UK."

**Load-Date:** March 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Continuous attacks are changing the way of life on the continent; The approaching elections in Germany, France and Americawill have one theme in common:societies and political systems struggling to come to terms with a disaffected population that feels excluded and ignored*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K98-1H01-F021-64GG-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 23, 2016 Saturday 2:32 PM GMT

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**Section:** EDITORIALS

**Length:** 560 words

**Byline:** Editorial

**Body**

The fact that the lone gunman, Ali Sonboly,who took at least 10 lives in Munich was, at least nominally, a Muslim, and that he committed an act of terror did not make this an act of Islamist terrorism.

Still less did it constitute an attack organised or even inspired by Isis, given the young man's Iranian and Shia heritage. That does not mean, though, that it lacks any political consequence or meaning.

Germany has shown the world a moral lead in its attitude to the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***, and much of the influx has been centred on Munich and Bavaria more widely. This outstanding humanity has not been popular in all quarters, and the fact that this deranged young man declared himself a German, and that he was born and brought up in Germany, will do nothing to prevent the exploitation of his otherness for political ends.

Like the lone young Afghan lashing out with knives, it can only feed Islamophobia, just as incidents in Nice, Paris, Brussels, Orlando and in Florida will do so.

The approaching elections in Germany, France and the US, though so different in many ways, will haveone theme in common with the British EU referendum: of societies and political systems struggling to come to terms with a disaffected population that feels excluded, "left behind" and ignored by political elites. They represent a receptive audience for demagogic leaders on the make. The rise of Ukip and Donald Trump is well documented. Noone would be greatly surpised if Marine Le Pen's Front National and the Alternative for Germany partyalso made gains at the ballot box.

Disaffection is curiously mirrored between what's termed the "white working class"and among the sons and daughters of migrants who feel alienated from their societies. For neither have the doctrines of democracy, globalisation and progressive politics delivered jobs and the wherewithal to share in the prosperity enjoyed by others.So they look to do something about it. When the disaffection becomes a form of mental illness, compounded often by family breakdown and drug and alcohol abuse, the turn of events becomes unpredictable.

It becomes especially violent, with the capacity to take the lives of others with the suicidal perpetrators in places where guns are easily obtained. The point about that in the American context hardly needs labouring. What seems to have been happening in continental Europe is an enlarged trade in weapons from the East, and especially from the Balkans wars of 20 years ago.

The principle of free movement of people and the passport-free Schengen zone may, in truth, have comparatively little to do with this, but those pillars of the EU will come under intense pressure once again. Even Angela Merkel, whose calm leadership seems to transcend the usual laws of politics, may not be able to resist the pressure to change things. The British have already decided to; the Hungarians are holding a referendum on migrant control soon.

The fact is that a frightening set of factors have conspired to create the conditions for an almost permanent scale of low-level violence in towns and cities in Europe that have been free from trouble since 1945. There will be no mass insurgencies as we see in Iraq, say, and in their the day-to-day experiences Europeans will be less bothered than, say, Israelis or the Northern Irish during the Troubles.

But a way of life is changing.

**Load-Date:** July 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Merkel and Davutoglu visit Turkish refugee camp*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JM0-V641-F072-41YK-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 24, 2016 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 18

**Length:** 313 words

**Byline:** INDEPENDENT STAFF

**Body**

German vice chancellor Angela Merkel and top European Union officials, including Turkey's prime minster Ahmet Davutoglu, visited a migrant camp on the Turkish-Syrian border in a bid to promote the EU-Turkey deal on the return of migrants who do not qualify for asylum in Greece.

During a joint conference in the Turkish city of Gaziantep with Ms Merkel, Mr Davutoglu said the number of irregular crossings by migrants to Greece has dropped considerably, which he says shows that the Turkish-EU migrant deal is working.

He added since the deal came into effect in March, around 130 crossings have been recorded per day. On some days, no refugees at all cross over to the Greek islands.

Ms Merkel, EU council president Donald Tusk and European commission vice president Frans Timmerman inaugurated a child support centre for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** funded by the 28-member bloc.

Joined by Mr Davutoglu and his wife, the team cut a red ribbon to open the centre.

The Turkish leader said the EU is launching initial projects worth Euro 187m (£146m) aimed at improving the conditions of refugees in Turkey.

Mr Tusk praised Turkey as the "best example" on how refugees should be treated.

At the support centre, Ms Merkel chatted with a group of a children standing in front of paintings made at the centre, gave some of them colouring pencils and listened to a band playing instruments.

She shook hands with the young musicians and thanked them in Arabic.

Four refugee children in traditional Syrian dress had greeted Ms Merkel and the EU officials with flowers as they entered the refugee camp.

The leaders posed for photos with the children and met with the camp''s elected leaders before walking into the site where the refugees are housed in container homes.

A large banner mounted near the fence of the camp read in English and in Turkish: "Welcome to the world''s largest refugee hosting country."

**Load-Date:** April 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Arnsberg bans New Year fireworks in shelters to avoid trauma for refugees; 'People who come from a war zone connect loud bangs more with shots and bombs than with New Year's Eve fireworks'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HRB-5X41-F021-62R8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 30, 2015 Wednesday 2:16 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 313 words

**Byline:** Serina Sandhu

**Body**

Setting off fireworks atrefugee accommodation and on the grounds of asylum centres intheGerman town of Arnsbergon New Year's Eve has been banned.

Authorities fear the loud sounds could have a traumatic effecton refugees who have fled war zones.

There is also concern the fireworks could result in potential injuries.

Read more

One million and counting: Europe reflects on the year of refugees

Europe's leaders urged to open their hearts to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Germany recruits 8,500 teachers to teach German to child refugees

A spokesman for Arnsberg, in North Rhine-Westphalia,

said "people who come from a war zone connect loud bangs more with shots and bombs than with New Year's Eve fireworks," adding that

the sale of rockets and firecrackers to residents of refugee shelters had been prohibited.

Signs informing people about the ban have been placed at the shelters.

In an effort "to avoid reawakening memories in people who have fled war and conflict of the horrors that threatened them," t

he town'sfire brigade suggested people should consider not launching fireworks at all.

Commenting on the ban, Dr Joachim Bauer, a psychotherapist from the University Medical Centre inFreiburg,

told Deutsche Welle

: "On experiencing stimuli that played a role in trauma, such as images, smells and sounds, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) such as re-experiencing the traumatic situation, anxiety, panic, shock or freezing can be re-triggered."

"For this reason it seems sensible to prohibit the customary New Year's fireworks in refugee shelters and the surrounding areas," said Dr Bauer.

Last year, people in Germany spent 120 million Euros (£89 million) on fireworks to celebrate the New Year.

Additional reporting by agencies

**Load-Date:** December 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*German Interior Minister warns Italy over refugee policy; 'We hope that it will not have to be necessary to decide on such matters'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JG7-NTX1-JCJY-G52B-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 6, 2016 Wednesday 5:27 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 339 words

**Byline:** Serina Sandhu

**Body**

The German Interior Minister has said Italy's access to the important Brenner Pass may be compromised in a warning to the country to refrain from sending migrants and refugees towards the north ofEurope.

Thomas de Maiziere said Rome could not "simply guide people north" toAustria and Germanyas it had done so in the past, and added: "Italy cannot depend on Brenner always staying open."

He said Italy could face restrictions on traffic along Brenner - an important passage for goods travelling from the country to Austria and other nations in the north of Europe.

Read more

75% of Calais 'Jungle' refugees have 'experienced police violence'

Turkey is 'illegally forcing refugees back to Syria'

Germany drafts proposals to make refugees integrate

Britain and other wealthy countries 'failing ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

In preparation for the arrival of more migrants andrefugees who have travelled from countries in north Africa such a Libya, across the Mediterranean toItaly, Austria has previously said tighter border controls may be needed at the crossing between the two countries. Some people then use Austria as a way of reachingGermany.

Depending on the number of people attempting to reach Austria, border control methods could include vehicle checks and barriers for crowd control.

On Sunday, the Brenner Pass was the scene of a clash between Austrian police and protestors demonstrating against the closure of the border. As the peaceful march neared an end, some protestors attempted to break through a line of police in riot gear.

But speaking about the possibility of tighter border controls to ORF television while in Austria on Tuesday, Mr de Maiziere said: "We hope that it will not have to be necessary to decide on such matters."

"That is assuming that the number coming to Italy are not too high. That is assuming that Italy fulfils its obligations."

Additional reporting by Reuters

**Load-Date:** April 6, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Rodney Meadows: Man wins $10m on lottery scratch card minutes after winning $1,000; The man said he decided to'let it ride'after winning with his first scratch card*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHK-W2V1-JCJY-G0BN-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 3, 2015 Thursday 6:41 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 306 words

**Byline:** Emma Henderson

**Body**

A Californian man won$1,000 (£660) on a lottery scratch card - before buying another three and scooping$10m (£6.6m) moments later.

Rodney Meadows, of Modesto, said he initiallybought one of the $30 California Lottery 30th anniversary scratch cards from his local Fast Mart shop.

Read more

Airbnb host sues 'over filming of hard-core gay porn' in mansion

After the first win, Mr Meadows said he decided to "let it ride"and bought another three tickets for $90.

Speaking to CNN, shop manager Lakhbir Singh said: "It's unbelievable.

"He went outside, scratched it and came back with the $1,000."

Mr Meadows said: "First off, I could not believe it.

"I had to ask the clerk at the store, and he said, 'You better check it again at the machine.'"

Mr Singh said MrMeadows was one of a handful of regulars who typically bought four or five of the tickets a week.

Regular customer Joseph Trancoso said: "Someone else came and bought three, so he [Meadows] bought the last three and the third one.

"I said to [Meadows], 'I knew you were going to do it'.He plays compulsively every day. It couldn't happen to a better guy."

Mr Meadows said he had not yet decided what he will be doing with his winnings.

Read more

We're all losers in the postcode lottery

Lottery changes 'will make it easier to win'

Student proposals to take in ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** called 'insensitive'

The shop is now thought by some to be lucky and has since beeninundated with hopeful customers, having also soldtickets that won customers $25,000last month and$30,000 last year.

According to California Lottery officials, Mr Meadows is one of just four people to ever win $10m on a 30th Anniversary ticket.

The Fast Mart will receive a bonus of $50,000 for selling the lucky ticket.

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Arnsberg bans New Year fireworks in shelters to avoid trauma for refugees; 'People who come from a war zone connect loud bangs more with shots and bombs than with New Year's Eve fireworks'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HR9-P4V1-JCJY-G11N-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 30, 2015 Wednesday 10:51 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 306 words

**Byline:** Serina Sandhu

**Body**

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There is also concern the fireworks could result in potential injuries.

Read more

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A spokesman for Arnsberg, in North Rhine-Westphalia,

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"For this reason it seems sensible to prohibit the customary New Year's fireworks in refugee shelters and the surrounding areas," said Dr Bauer.

Last year, people in Germany spent 120 million Euros (£89 million) on fireworks to celebrate the New Year.

Additional reporting by agencies

**Load-Date:** December 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*LOCKED OUT; SYRIAN REFUGEES One million Syrians who have fled their homeland have crossed the border to Turkey - yet many continue to cling to the keys of homes they are unlikely ever to see again. The photojournalist Bradley Secker hears their stories???*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5CTN-7431-JCS0-D3YH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The New Review

August 3, 2014

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURE; Pg. 22

**Length:** 918 words

**Byline:** WORDS by GILLIAN ORR

**Body**

IT IS all about the little details: a painted fingernail; a silly toy; a desperate grip. Every hand offers a clue about the life behind it, yet the sitter remains largely anonymous.

They do, however, all have one thing in common: each hand belongs to a person displaced by the war in Syria; the keys belong to the homes from which they have been forced to leave.

The photographs are the work of Bradley Secker, a 27-year-old British photojournalist who has been living and working in Turkey since January 2012, focusing on how issues of identity, migration, sexuality and the socio-political affect the area. Although based in Istanbul, since June 2013 he has journeyed around the country to meet and photograph some of the million refugees who have travelled across the border from neighbouring Syria.

Secker has called his project "Nakba", meaning "catastrophe" - though he understands that it is a loaded term in the region, since it is a word inseparably connected to the 1948 Palestine War, which saw around 700,000 people flee the country. "It often gets a double-take," says Secker. "But people understand it. In my opinion, this is the biggest catastrophe of the past decade in terms of humanitarian crisis. That's partly why I used the word, but it was also to engage people."

Secker decided to photograph the hands and keys of refugees after growing concerned about the media's coverage of the war. "I'd done lots of assignments covering the crisis and I felt like a lot of it exploited people's misery," he says. "I wanted to give the people I was photographing a bit more dignity and some anonymity. The idea behind the images is to convey the meaning of having lost your home, and I think that's something easy to relate to for a lot of people."

He also suggests that hands can give away plenty about their owner. "You can tell gender, a little about the kind of life they've had, the job they've done. They're quite expressive."

Secker's first subject was his Syrian housemate. Since then he has taken photographs of around 80 people. It is an ongoing project and it has taken him all over Turkey, from a refugee camp in Islahiye and a bus station in the town of Kilis on the Syrian border, in the south of the country, to major cities such as Istanbul in the north.

"I have several people lined up to photograph over the coming weeks. It's actually more tricky than you would perhaps expect for such a simple series. People forget to bring their keys, are busy, or they travel somewhere at the last minute."

Participants were also asked to share a few words about the meaning of home for them. The poignant messages range from "My soul" to "The place I was going to put down roots."

"It's interesting, there was not much cross-over between people," Secker recalls. "Almost everybody said something quite unique. I suppose everyone has a different view of home."

Each picture, then, comes with a personal story. Hael (page 23) is a huge football fan and saw Manchester United play once on a trip to England. Aboud D (page 25) used the colourful Lego toy, a gift from his brother, as a torch when the electricity went out in his home during a bombardment.

Ola (page 25) and Aboud F (above left) married in Turkey after the images were taken. They invited Secker, by then a friend, to take photos of their wedding. He recalls it being a bittersweet moment; the couple had to live-stream their wedding over Skype on various laptops to relatives who had been displaced over four countries.

Sadly, a number of those forced to leave their homes will no longer have one when, or if, they return. "Some of their houses had already been destroyed - but they still kept their keys," says Secker. "Personally, I have kept keys from the past six or seven apartments I've had in three or four countries. I think it's quite a human thing to do. These keys have become a symbol of people's homes, and by extension what's happening in their country. There's something sentimental about them." \*

For more: bradleysecker.com/syrian-nakba

HADEEL

[previous page, left]

Age

28

Home town

Damasacus

Time in exile

1 year, 10 months

The meaning of home

'We got married and moved in, we made it our own. Everything we wanted is there, we made it our own place. We worked for it and it was our dream house'

HAEL

[previous page, right]

Age

28

Home town

Deir Ezzor/ Damascus

Time in exile

1 year, 4 months, 10 days

The meaning of home

'I feel scared when I don't have home to go back to. My country has been stolen from me. The last thing I heard about my home was that it had been burnt'

ABOUD D

[above left]

Age

37

Home town

Inshaat, Homs

Time in exile

2 years, 1 month

The meaning of home

'This was the place I was going to put down roots: I returned to Syria after years working abroad and bought a house; literally straight after, the revolution began'

OLA

[above right]

Age

28

Home town

Latakia

Time in exile

1 year

The meaning of home

'Losing any chance to return home is like losing any chance to achieve any of my dreams'

ABOUD F

[above left]

Age

32

Home town

Latakia

Time in exile

9 months

The meaning of home

'Being unable to return home is like a sailor being unable to return home to land; I feel lost at sea. I miss a hug from my mum. Home means the safety of a child between his mum's hands'

WAEL

[above right]

Age

40

Home town

Idlib city

Time in exile

17 months

The meaning of home

'Home for me is memories. We are a big family, so everyone being spread over four or five countries is too hard. Not being able to return is like the feeling when you are underwater and can't breathe'

**Load-Date:** August 2, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Syrian civil war crisis: Yarmouk refugee camp evacuated 'halted'; Thousands of civilians remain trapped inside the camp without access to medical care or day-to-day necessities*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HPG-MD01-JCJY-G4RT-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 26, 2015 Saturday 4:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 303 words

**Byline:** Rose Troup Buchanan

**Body**

The planned evacuation of thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from a camp has halted, according to reports.

Yarmouk camp should have been evacuated on Saturday under an agreement between rebels and Assad forces currently fighting for control of southern Damascus.

Instead, safety issues and the death of a top rebel have been blamed for the delay.

Read more

Syria civil war: Government's 'indiscriminate and stupid' bombing of

Almost 20,000 civilians have been trapped inside the camp since the two opposing forces began fighting, shelling and attacking one another in the streets. Most recently, Isis - also referred to as either Daesh or the Islamic State - took controls of parts of the camp.

Humanitarian assistance has been unable to reach the camp, where an estimated 18,000 civilians live in worsening conditions, but should the fighters withdraw the UN hopes to get aid through.

Parts of the camp, which gained international notoriety last year after a photograph depicted thousands waiting for food in the shelled city, have subsequently been taken by al-Qaeda-linked al-Nusra, as well as pro- and anti-government Palestinian groups.

The Assad government and rebels had come to a fragile agreement that fighters from Yarmouk, as well as districts Hajar al-Aswad and al-Qadam, would withdraw along with their families in 18 buses which arrived in the camp on Friday.

But the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said the withdrawal had been paused for "logistical" reasons - principally, that the road to Isis-controlled Raqqa had not been secured.

Lebanese Hezbollah al-Manar TV also claimed the evacuation was delayed after the death of rebel group Jaysh al-Islam's leader this week, the BBC reported.

The Syrian conflict has now entered its fourth year with an estimated 250,000 people killed in the bitter civil war so far.

**Load-Date:** December 26, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Continuous attacks are changing the way of life on the continent; The approaching elections in Germany, France and Americawill have one theme in common:societies and political systems struggling to come to terms with a disaffected population that feels excluded and ignored*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K98-1H01-F021-64GF-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 23, 2016 Saturday 2:32 PM GMT

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**Section:** EDITORIALS

**Length:** 563 words

**Byline:** Editorial

**Body**

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Like the lone young Afghan lashing out with knives, it can only feed Islamophobia, just as incidents in Nice, Paris, Brussels, Orlando and in Florida will do so.

The approaching elections in Germany, France and the US, though so different in many ways, will have, in common with the British EU referendum one common theme: of societies and political systems struggling to come to terms with a disaffected population that feels excluded, "left behind" and ignored by political elites. They represent a receptive audience for demagogic leaders on the make. The rise of Ukip and Donald Trump is well documented. No-one would be greatly surpised if Marine Le Pen's Front National and the alternative for Germany party the AFD also made gains in the ballot box.

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The principle of free movement of people and the passport-free Schengen zone may, in truth, have comparatively little to do with this, but those pillars of the EU will come under intense pressure once again. Even Angela Merkel, whose calm leadership seems to transcend the usual laws of politics, may not be able to resist the pressure to change things. The British have already decided to; the Hungarians are holding a referendum on migrant control soon.

The fact is that a frightening set of factors have conspired to create the conditions for an almost permanent scale of low-level violence in towns and cities in Europe that have been free from trouble since 1945. There will be no mass insurgencies as we see in Iraq, say, and in their the day-to-day experiences Europeans will be less bothered than, say Israelis or the Northern Irish during The Troubles.

But a way of life is changing.

**Load-Date:** July 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Video shows Syrian refugee children's joy while sledging for the first time; The three siblings and their mother had fled Syria 16 months ago*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HX1-CM11-F021-6295-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 21, 2016 Thursday 12:57 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 292 words

**Byline:** Charlie Atkin

**Body**

Video showsthree Syrian refugee children squealing with delight as they go sledging for the first time.

Ansam, 13, Ibrahim, 10, Dalya, 9, and their mother, Amal Alkhalaf, 41, fled Homs, Syria 16 months ago and arrived in Canada three weeks ago.

The three siblings can be seen in the video thoroughly enjoying themselves as they speed down the slope, accompanied by David McNab, a sponsor who helped relocate the family.

Read more

Video shows the complete devastation of Homs, five years into conflict

Now settled in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, the children are now registered at a school where three more of their sponsors are teachers.

"We are overjoyed to be able to make a difference for this family and we feel incredibly grateful for the chance to know them," Mr McNab told

The Independent

.

"It has been the best thing that has happened to most of us in a very long time."

Macleans magazine, who featured the family and their sponsors on a recent cover, report that the family is adjusting well to Canadian life.

On a visit to the town, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met the family along with other ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who havesettled there.

He later tweeted a photo of the family and a signed copy of the cover they appeared on.

"Family 417" is safe in Peterborough - and had a special gift for me today. Welcome to Canada, Amal Alkhalaf. pic.twitter.com/LZ1EmEDgLH

- Justin Trudeau (@JustinTrudeau) January 17, 2016

Mr McNab, an Ontario Provincial Police officer, hopes that others might see how easy it is to help similar families.

"Every child deserves a chance to be free and happy. The solution to the problem is not as complicated as we might think."

His group is currently working on plans to sponsor another family.

**Load-Date:** January 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Turkish guards 'attacking' Syrian refugees and 'pushing them into the arms of smugglers'; Families fleeing the carnage in Aleppo are being greeted at the border with bullets and beatings. Laura Pitel reports from Kilis on Ankara's increasingly inhumane efforts to put up the barricades*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J79-V0G1-F021-6366-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 4, 2016 Friday 11:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 1084 words

**Byline:** Laura Pitel

**Body**

Turkish border guards are routinely attacking Syrians attempting to cross illegally into Turkey, refugees and campaigners have claimed.

Families who fled the recent fighting in Aleppo told

The Independent

that officers had opened fire as they tried to reach Turkey with the help of smugglers. Others spoke of heavy beatings for those caught after attempting to slip across.

Turkey has cracked down on its border security amid heavy pressure from the US to limit the transit of jihadist fighters seeking to join Isis. At the same time, the European Union has urged Ankara to stem the flow of refugees setting off towards Europe in dinghies from Turkey's western coast.

Read more

Calais Jungle refugee children 'being raped in camp'

As EU leaders prepare for a key summit with Turkey on Monday, aimed at preventing a repeat of last summer's influx, they face warnings that they must also encourage Turkey to grant safe passage to those trying to escape a war zone. Turkey insists that it maintains an "open door" policy towards Syrians, but human rights groups say that, for the past year, only those with serious or urgent medical conditions have been allowed to cross.

Ankara does not deny that border guards sometimes open fire on those crossing illegally. "In certain cases, the border patrol has no option but to fire warning shots because they often come under attack from smugglers and terrorist groups on the Syrian side," a senior government official said, while insisting that the border force had an "outstanding track record".

EU announces refugee aid for Turkey

Syrians say that Turkey's policies are pushing them into the arms of greedy and unscrupulous smugglers - and that guards use excessive force on those fleeing in fear for their lives.

Aliya Radwan, a grandmother from the town of Hraytan in northern Aleppo,was cowering from air strikes in a neighbour's basement when she decided that she had to leave. She knew that she and her family would not be allowed into Turkey at the Bab al-Salama crossing, 25 miles to the north. She had friends among the tens of thousands from Aleppo province who had already flocked to the border but were sleeping in the open after being barred from entering Turkey.

Instead, she turned to a smuggler. He took her family to a crossing at the town of Khirbet al-Jawz in neighbouring Idlib province. On their first attempt to cross on a dark, rainy night last month, they were forced to retreat in terror after border guards opened fire. They managed to sneak through undetected on a second attempt. Others were not so lucky.

A young widow who fled heavy bombardment in Aleppo two months ago, who asked to be named only as Fatima, said that she saw border guards shoot a young girl making the same journey. "She didn't speak Turkish so didn't understand when they shouted 'Get away!'" she recalled. "The guards opened fire." She did not know whether the girl had lived or died.

Amnesty International reported last month that hospitals in Azaz, a town near the Turkish border, were receiving two civilians a day who had been shot while attempting such crossings. It said that, in one case, a child aged 10 died after being shot in the head.

That claim was echoed by Dr Ali al-Saloum, an orthopaedic surgeon at a hospital in Azaz. He said that the number of cases waxed and waned but, during the worst periods, it was common to see two people a day who were shot trying to cross the border. He had seen victims old and young, including a one-year-old baby girl, who died after being shot in the head. Dr Saloum said that, while the problem had been going on for some time, he believed it had grown worse. "It used to be much rarer," he said. "And when it did happen it was people being shot in the leg of the arm. But people started dying."

He said there was a bitter irony in the ultimate fate of some of those most badly injured while trying to reach the neighbouring country. "The funny thing is that, with the most seriously injured people, we don't have the necessary specialism or intensive care services. So we get them transferred to Turkey."

Some of those seeking to sneak into Turkey have suffered heavy beatings. Aktham Alwany, 28, a Syrian activist and journalist, said he was beaten on two separate occasions after being caught attempting to enter Turkey illegally to visit his mother, who has cancer.

On his first of three attempts to cross via the Syrian-Kurdish enclave of Afrin, he says that he was stopped, beaten and detained. His mobile and laptop were taken. After being released, he tried again, near the Turkish town of Kilis. As he and others attempting to cross illegally jumped down into a trench that demarcated the crossing, border guards opened fire, he said. He gave himself up, he said, and was hit over the head with a rock. He claimed to have suffered heavy bleeding from his forehead and nose, followed by period of memory loss. A photograph taken by doctors shows his face streaked with blood.

Read more

EU urges Turkey to help stem flow of refugees

Merkel stands accused of daring to put the world before Germany

Refugees Minister hits out at Tory backbenchers over refugees

Refugees will be able to compete at the Rio Olympics

He said that he eventually made it into Turkey after paying a border guard $1,000 to hide in the back of a goods truck. His experience motivated him to make a documentary about the problem. In the course of filming, he met people who were attacked with dogs, who suffered broken ribs from beatings, and a mother whose child was shot.

Mr Alwany said that he did not solely blame Ankara. "I want to be fair, it's not only related to Turkey," he said. "The issue is bigger than Turkey." But he warned that people already fleeing Syrian and Russian bombing, the tyranny of Isis or the attacks from rebel groups, now faced a fresh danger.

Andrew Gardner, a Turkey researcher for Amnesty International, said that it was "abhorrent" that people seeking protection should find themselves facing live fire at the border. He called for regulated safe border crossings for Syrians and urged the EU to "live up to its responsibilities" towards asylum seekers so that Turkey - a country that already hosts 2.5 million Syrians - did not have to shoulder an unfair burden. He said: "Without those two things, these tragedies on the borders will be replayed again and again."

**Load-Date:** March 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron reported to police as a 'war criminal' for bombing Syria; Members of the Scottish Resistance groupclaimed the Prime Minister had broken theThe Kellogg-Briand Pact, an obscure intenational agreement signed in 1928*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HJF-BVD1-JCJY-G4MM-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 7, 2015 Monday 5:22 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 323 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

David Cameron has been reported to police as a "war criminal" by a trio of Scottish independence campaigners

for authorising air strikes in Syria.

Members of the Scottish Resistance group walked into Rutherglen police station, near Glasgow, and handed an official complaint to an officer claiming that he had breached an obscure international agreement signed after the First World War.

The complaint, first reported by

Buzzfeed News,

states that"by authorising the bombing of Syria, David Cameron, the prime minister, has breached international law".

Read more

Boris Johnson disputes David Cameron's 70,000 Syria claim

Syria's Assad mocks Cameron 'farce' and say UK air strikes will fail

David Cameron accused of condoning abuse against ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Facebook users reporting David Cameron's air strikes post

James Scott, who leads Scottish Resistance, toldthe police officer:"We're here to make a criminal complaint against the prime minister of the UK, David Cameron.

"He's gone to war in breach of international law - in 1928, a treaty was made called the Kellogg-Briand Pact. It was a treaty to end all war, a renunciation of war, this is the truth."

A video of the complaint was posted on Youtube:

The Kellogg-Briand Pact, otherwise known as the Paris Pact,was signed in 1928 by Germany, France and the United States, with the United Kingdom joining a year later.

It committed nations not to use war to resolve"disputes or conflicts of whatever nature or of whatever origin they may be, which may arise among them".

However it had little effect in stemming the rise of militarism in the 1930s.

Speaking outside the police station,Mr Scott said he was proud to have declared Mr Cameron as a "war criminal" and said he hoped the complaint would be "properly investigated".

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Storm Frank live: Thousands of homes hit by power cuts as rain and gales bring more flooding - latest updates; Northern Ireland experienced disruption overnight and more flooding is expected in England and Scotland today*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HR9-P4V1-JCJY-G0SF-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 30, 2015 Wednesday 10:34 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 355 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Storm Frank is hitting the UK, bringing more gales, torrential rain and flooding over northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Here are the latest updates:

Looters have been targeting flood victims' homes in York

Families feel they were 'sacrificed' by authorities

More flooding and damage is expected

Storm Frank is heating the North Pole up

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are among volunteers building defences

More than 2,000 homes in Northern Ireland lost power

Soldiers evacuated residents in Tadcaster as a bridge over the raging River Wharfe collapsed

Three severe flood warnings, 46flood warnings and 85alerts are still in place

Please allow a moment for the live blog to load

The latest storm to sweep the country caused widespread disruption in Northern Ireland overnight, with more than 2,000 homes affected by power cuts and flights from Belfast Airport temporarily stopped in high winds.

Torrential rain and gales was more misery on flood-ravaged homeowners in northern England today, where areas are still struggling to recover from two previous storms - Desmond and Eve.

In York, police have condemned thieves who looted homes evacuated by flood victims.

North Yorkshire Police's Acting Superintendent Mark Grange said: "It is extremely disappointing to see victims of the floods being targeted in this way.

"It is impossible to comprehend why anyone would want to bring further suffering to those who are already in a very vulnerable situation."

The EA had earlier warned of the potential for further significant flooding, especially in Cumbria, while floods minister Rory Stewart said a potentially "very bad situation" lay ahead.

In many areas the ground is still saturated from previous downpours and river levels remain at record highs.

Scotland was also bracing itself with Met Office amber "be prepared" warnings issued for today in all mainland regions outside the Highlands.

**Load-Date:** December 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Storm Frank live: Thousands of homes hit by power cuts as rain and gales bring more flooding - latest updates; Northern Ireland experienced disruption overnight and more flooding is expected in England and Scotland today*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HRB-1FD1-F021-627N-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 30, 2015 Wednesday 12:02 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 349 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

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Soldiers evacuated residents in Tadcaster as a bridge over the raging River Wharfe collapsed

Around 150 flood warnings and alerts are in place

Please allow a moment for the live blog to load

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**Load-Date:** December 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump claims women prefer to wear burka 'because they don't have to wear make-up'; Business mogul claims it is 'easier' wearing the full face veils*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H7N-J7X1-F021-63NG-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 27, 2015 Tuesday 10:28 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 280 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

Donald Trump claimed women might prefer to wear burkas because it means they don't have to wear make-up.

Speaking at a rally in New Hampshire, where he has been the frontrunnersince launching his Presidential campaign, Trump tried to use the full faceveils as part of hisargument thatthe US should stop intervening in the Middle East in another inflammatory statement.

"I saw a woman interviewed. They said 'We want to wear them, we've worn them for a thousand years. Why would anybody tell us not?' They want to!" he told the audience. "What the hell are we getting involved for?

"Fact is, it's easy. You don't have to put on makeup, look how beautiful everyone looks. Wouldn't it be easier? Right? Wouldn't that be easy? I'll tell ya, if I was a woman, I'm ready darling, let's go".

Trump has criticised interventionist foreign policy throughout his campaign and even vowed to deport all ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** fleeing persecution because they "might be Isis".

Read more

Trump has gone from most hated person in Mexico to Halloween hit

Vanity Fair's editor mocks Donald Trump the same way for 25 years

Donald Trump is much derided - but he is right about the Middle East

Donald Trump blames George Bush for 9/11

The business tycoon also revealed his father had given him a "small loan" of $1 million to launch his career. "I came into Manhattan and I had to pay him back, and I had to pay him back with interest," he added.

Trump went on to build his real estate empire, amassing an estimated net worth of £4.5 billion.

**Load-Date:** October 27, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Crowd 'cheers' as fire breaks out at home for refugees in Germany; Authorities believe the fire was caused by arson*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J4M-YX71-F021-655P-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 21, 2016 Sunday 4:03 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 337 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

A planned home for asylum seekers has burned down in Saxony, easternGermany, as bystanderscheered, police said.

Police said no one was injured, but a group of people gathered outside, some "commenting with derogatory remarks or unashamed joy" about the fire.

Three people were orderedto leave the scene after hampering firefighters' work, while two others were detained.

Investigators found traces of a fire accelerant at the scene and believe the fire was caused by arson.

A future refugee home burned down in German town Bautzen today. People outside were clapping and cheering. @szonlinepic.twitter.com/ZiSfZPwgiA

- Laura Schneider (@alauraschneider) February 21, 2016

Geplantes #Asyl-Heim in #Bautzen in Flammen. Schulaustige klatschen Beifall. Erste Infos: [*https://t.co/IW3uiAlX86pic.twitter.com/1iHA4ZZMcf*](https://t.co/IW3uiAlX86pic.twitter.com/1iHA4ZZMcf)

- MDR SACHSEN (@MDR\_SN) February 21, 2016

The building in Bautzen, known as the Husarenhof,was originally a hotel and was being modified to shelter asylum seekers.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the building could be restored.

Saxony is home to anti-immigration group Pegida.

Read more

Refugees cry as they are welcomed in Germany by mob shouting 'go home'

Migrants responsible for tiny fraction of sex crimes in Germany-report

Merkel urges EU leaders to keep faith with Turkey refugee deal

Deutschland 83 actor Jonas Nay calls on Europe to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

On Thursday, a mob shouting "we are the people" and "go home" blocked a bus carrying asylum seekers outide a refugee home in Clausnitz.

Saxony governor Stanislaw Tillich described the two incidents as "appalling and shocking" and described the perpetrators as "criminals".

"This is abhorrent and disgusting," Mr Tillich said in an interview with the Funke newspaper group. He pledged that authorities will investigate and "bring everyone responsible to account".

Additional reporting by Press Association

**Load-Date:** February 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron reported to police as 'war criminal' for bombing Syria; Members of the Scottish Resistance groupclaimed the Prime Minister had broken theThe Kellogg-Briand Pact, an obscure intenational agreement signed in 1928*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HJM-B2C1-JCJY-G37H-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 8, 2015 Tuesday 8:50 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 323 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

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However it had little effect in stemming the rise of militarism in the 1930s.

Speaking outside the police station,Mr Scott said he was proud to have declared Mr Cameron as a "war criminal" and said he hoped the complaint would be "properly investigated".

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Rodney Meadows: Man wins $10m on lottery scratch card minutes after winning $1,000; The man said he decided to'let it ride'after winning with his first scratch card*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHK-G421-F021-635G-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 3, 2015 Thursday 5:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 306 words

**Byline:** Emma Henderson

**Body**

A Californian man won$1,000 (£660) on a lottery scratch card - before buying another three and scooping$10m (£66,400) moments later.

Rodney Meadows, of Modesto, said he initiallybought one of the $30 California Lottery 30th anniversary scratch cards from his local Fast Mart shop.

Read more

Airbnb host sues 'over filming of hard-core gay porn' in mansion

After the first win, Mr Meadows said he decided to "let it ride"and bought another three tickets for $90.

Speaking to CNN, shop manager Lakhbir Singh said: "It's unbelievable.

"He went outside, scratched it and came back with the $1,000."

Mr Meadows said: "First off, I could not believe it.

"I had to ask the clerk at the store, and he said, 'You better check it again at the machine.'"

Mr Singh said MrMeadows was one of a handful of regulars who typically bought four or five of the tickets a week.

Regular customer Joseph Trancoso said: "Someone else came and bought three, so he [Meadows] bought the last three and the third one.

"I said to [Meadows], 'I knew you were going to do it'.He plays compulsively every day. It couldn't happen to a better guy."

Mr Meadows said he had not yet decided what he will be doing with his winnings.

Read more

We're all losers in the postcode lottery

Lottery changes 'will make it easier to win'

Student proposals to take in ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** called 'insensitive'

The shop is now thought by some to be lucky and has since beeninundated with hopeful customers, having also soldtickets that won customers $25,000last month and$30,000 last year.

According to California Lottery officials, Mr Meadows is one of just four people to ever win $10m on a 30th Anniversary ticket.

The Fast Mart will receive a bonus of $50,000 for selling the lucky ticket.

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Another 3 million refugees and migrants will arrive in Europe in 2016, EU says; More than 700,000 have arrived in Europe so far in 2015*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9K-MC61-JCJY-G3CV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 5, 2015 Thursday 12:14 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 299 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

More than threemillion more refugees and migrants are expected toarrive in the European Union by the end of 2016, the European Commission has said.

In 2015 around 700,000 people have come to Europe seeking sanctuary or jobs so far this year, overwhelming reception centres and border authorities.

The Commission, the bloc's executive, says that "overall, an additional 3 million persons is assumed to arrive in the EU over the forecast period" and that numbers are unlikely to slow before 2017.

700 children a day are now claiming asylum every day on European soil, more than 190,000 this year, according to aid agency Unicef.

Britian has pledged to take 4,000 refugees a year from camps near Syria, a small drop in the ocean compared to the hundreds of thousands planned by Germany and other European nations.

The UK will not take any refugees who arrive in Europe on their own accord, however.

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

Western promises of help insufficient as refugees face bleak winter

Refugees stuck on British RAF base issue emotional pleas for release

Labour's Yvette Cooper, the party's lead on the refugee crisis, says the Government has not done enough on the issue.

The UK is also providing significant amounts of financial and humanitarianaid to camps near conflict zones in Syria.

The Commission also estimates that the refugee crisiscould have a small, positive impact on EU member states within a few years due to an increase labour supply.

The EU's border agency Frontex says the main routes into the EU are through the Western Balkan countries, as well as the Eastern and Central Mediterranean.

Additional reporting by AP

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syrian civil war crisis: Yarmouk refugee camp evacuation 'halted'; Thousands of civilians remain trapped inside the camp without access to medical care or day-to-day necessities*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HPG-MD01-JCJY-G4RV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 26, 2015 Saturday 4:16 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 303 words

**Byline:** Rose Troup Buchanan

**Body**

The planned evacuation of thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from a camp has halted, according to reports.

Yarmouk camp should have been evacuated on Saturday under an agreement between rebels and Assad forces currently fighting for control of southern Damascus.

Instead, safety issues and the death of a top rebel have been blamed for the delay.

Read more

Syria civil war: Government's 'indiscriminate and stupid' bombing of

Almost 20,000 civilians have been trapped inside the camp since the two opposing forces began fighting, shelling and attacking one another in the streets. Most recently, Isis - also referred to as either Daesh or the Islamic State - took controls of parts of the camp.

Humanitarian assistance has been unable to reach the camp, where an estimated 18,000 civilians live in worsening conditions, but should the fighters withdraw the UN hopes to get aid through.

Parts of the camp, which gained international notoriety last year after a photograph depicted thousands waiting for food in the shelled city, have subsequently been taken by al-Qaeda-linked al-Nusra, as well as pro- and anti-government Palestinian groups.

The Assad government and rebels had come to a fragile agreement that fighters from Yarmouk, as well as districts Hajar al-Aswad and al-Qadam, would withdraw along with their families in 18 buses which arrived in the camp on Friday.

But the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said the withdrawal had been paused for "logistical" reasons - principally, that the road to Isis-controlled Raqqa had not been secured.

Lebanese Hezbollah al-Manar TV also claimed the evacuation was delayed after the death of rebel group Jaysh al-Islam's leader this week, the BBC reported.

The Syrian conflict has now entered its fourth year with an estimated 250,000 people killed in the bitter civil war so far.

**Load-Date:** December 26, 2015

**End of Document**



[*EU delays decision on Turkey deal until summit in 10 days' time; Demands come as leaders meet in Brussels to discussmeasures to halt flow of migrants crossing the Aegean Seato Greece*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J80-HFN1-JCJY-G06T-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 8, 2016 Tuesday 1:46 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 801 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz

**Body**

European Union leaders have announced a deal at the close of their summit with Turkey. They wereset to cave in to fresh demands from Turkey for an extra (EURO)3bn in aid - double the previously agreed figure - to help prevent ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** leaving Turkish soil.

The last-minute demands came as EU leaders met in Brussels to try and agree measures to halt the flow of migrants crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece.

The aid would be provided until the end of 2018 to help Ankara shelter the estimated 2.5 million Syrians currently living in Turkey, rather than wave them on towards the EU. It is part of a package, negotiated with Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, that comes with the promise of visa-free travel for Turks wishing to visit Europe by the end of June, at least four months earlier than planned, if Ankara agrees to introduce biometric passports.

It also includes plans for a resettlement scheme under which the EU would admit one Syrian refugee for every Syrian taken back by Turkey from the Greek islands. Turkey would also readmit all "irregular" migrants - those who do not qualify for refugee status - who cross into Greek islands from Turkey.

Mr Davutoglu used the summit to push for an acceleration of talks on Turkish membership of the EU. "Turkey is ready to work with the EU, and Turkey is ready to be a member of the EU as well," he said. He also said Turkey wanted the EU to help establish humanitarian safe zones inside Syria for refugees.

Read more

Turkey's argument on refugees is about pride - not just money

The EU offer came after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused it of failing to live up to the (EURO)3bn deal agreed last November to help Turkey deal with its influx of refugees. "It's been four months. They are yet to deliver," he said. "My Prime Minister is currently in Brussels. I hope he will return with the money."

Mr Erdogan said Turkey had spent about (EURO)10bn on the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living in the camps since 2011, and was struggling to meet the needs of a growing number of refugees.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the EU should try to slash the flow of migrants entering illegally "and not just for a few countries, but for all countries. That means for Greece too." She said there had to be a "sustainable solution" that involved protecting the EU's external borders, and "that can only be done in cooperation with Turkey".

David Cameron said that Britain would not join a common asylum process in Europe (AFP)

However, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said the EU should shut its borders to migrants completely because any resettlement plan would only add "fuel to the fire" and cause more people to come. The summit comes three days after the Turkish government's seizure of Zaman, the country's largest daily newspaper. But the EU was careful not to tie the crackdown with Ankara's demands. Prime Minister David Cameron raised concerns about press freedom with Mr Davutoglu during the summit, an official said, noting that he underlined the importance of protections for a free press and human rights.

French President François Hollande added that "co-operation with Turkey doesn't mean accepting everything from Turkey". While EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said that Turkey must "respect the highest standards when it comes to democracy, rule of law and fundamental freedoms".

Read more

Merkel and Juncker argue Western Balkans route 'is not closed'

Turkey says letting it join the EU would help solve the refugee crisis

EU warns Turkey seizure of Zaman newspaper 'jeopardises' accession

EU urges Turkey to help stem flow of refugees

EU leaders were also wrangling over plans to close the so-called Balkans route, which more than one million migrants have taken over the past year as they have travelled north from Greece to Germany. The route is now effectively closed after Macedonia - backed by Austria, Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary - limited border crossings, boxing in an estimated 14,000 refugees at Greece's northern frontier.

Ms Merkel said she would block any agreement to permanently close borders. Meanwhile, Mr Cameron pledged that Britain would not take part in a planned common EU asylum policy. "We have an absolutely rock solid opt-out from these things, so there's no prospect of Britain joining a common asylum process in Europe," he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking ahead of European Commission proposals - set to be unveiled next week - to take control of asylum claims. "We will have our own asylum approach, our own way of doing things, keeping our borders. It underlines the best of both worlds, the special status that we have," Mr Cameron said.

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump brings campaign against windfarms to UK Supreme Court; He said the turbines would be a "monstrous" blight on the coastal landscape*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H3M-SM31-F021-62JB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 8, 2015 Thursday 9:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 333 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

US presidential contender Donald Trump has broughthis campaign against windfarms to the UK's Supreme Court.

Mr Trump wasfurious

when the Scottish government approved plans for a renewable energy development within sight of his multi-million pound development on the Menie Estate in the north-east of Scotland, the BBC reports.

He said the 11 turbines would be a "monstrous" blight on the coastal landscape.

After losing a series of legal challenges in the Scottish courts, he has now taken the case to the UK's Supreme Court in London.

Mr Trump previously accused Scotland's former first minister, Alex Salmond, of being biased in favour of the £230m project and skewing the approval process,

The Guardian

reports.

Three senior judges in Edinburgh ruled the allegations were unfounded and that he had no grounds for accusing Scottish ministers of illegally agreeing to license the offshore windfarm.

Read more

Donald Trump supports Russian efforts to tackle Isis in Syria

Donald Trump will deport ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** 'because they might be Isis'

Trump releases his new tax plan

Vaccinations are causing an autism 'epidemic' says Trump

Republicans prepare for second TV debate

He has threatened to take his lawsuit to European courts if he loses in the Supreme Court.

"When I saw this piece of land I was overwhelmed by the imposing dunes and rugged Aberdeenshire coastline," a personal message on Mr Trump's golf course website reads."I knew that this was the perfect site for Trump International, Scotland.

"I have never seen such an unspoiled and dramatic sea side landscape and the location makes it perfect for our development."

Mr Trump is not expected to attend the hearing, as he will likely be too busy campaigning in the presidential race.

Supreme Court judges are expected to deliver their verdict at a later date.

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Saudi Arabia 'funding Islamic extremism in the West', German vice-chancellor Sigmar Gabriel claims; 'We have to make clear to the Saudis that the time of looking away is over,' the politician says*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HJF-6911-JCJY-G43C-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 7, 2015 Monday 3:00 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 298 words

**Byline:** Emma Henderson

**Body**

Germany's vice-chancellor has publicly accused Saudi Arabia of financing terrorists in the West.

Sigmar Gabriel claimed the country wasfunding mosques linked to extremism, which he said were becoming a threat to public security.

Read more

German spies say Saudi Arabia is '

destablising

the Middle East'

In an interview with German newspaper,

Bild am Sonntag

, Mr Gabriel said: "We have to make clear to the Saudis that the time of looking away is over.

"Wahhabi mosques all over the world are financed by Saudi Arabia.

"Many Islamists who are a threat to public safety come from these communities in Germany."

While the allegation is not a new one,it is unusual for a European leader to directlyspeak out against the West's key Arab ally, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saudi.

Wahhabism is described as a conservative branch of Sunni Islam and is the official religion of Saudi Arabia.

Isis andal-Qaeda are both considered to be inspired byWahhabism.

Read more

The difference between Isis and Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's unity summit will only highlight Arab disunity

Saudi accuses Corbyn of 'distorting' truth over funding terrorism

Saudi Arabia has funded Wahhabi mosques around the world to spread the sect, and King Salman offered to build 200 mosques in Germany for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

But the country washeavilycriticised in German media after refusing to take in any refugees.

Mr Gabriel has clashed with the state's Royal Family in the past, when he spokeout about Saudi bloggerRaif Badawiwho was sentenced to 1,000 lashings for supposedly"insulting Islam".

The German government voted to deploy up to 1,200 military personnel to support international air strikes against Isis on Friday.

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Greek refugee camp is 'as bad as a Nazi concentration camp', says minister; 'I do not hesitate to say that this is a modern-day Dachau', saysPanagiotis Kouroublis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JB5-WMC1-JCJY-G2VX-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 18, 2016 Friday 2:26 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 809 words

**Byline:** Will Worley, Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Refugees in Europe are living in conditions comparable to Nazi concentration camps, a senior Greek politician has said.

The Greek interior minister, Panagiotis Kouroublis was visiting the Idomeni camp on Greece's border with Macedonia.

Despite being planned for just 2,500 people, the camp hostsaround 12,000 refugees - many from Syria and Iraq - in wet, cold and muddy conditions.

"I do not hesitate to say that this is a modern-day Dachau, a result of the logic of closed borders," said Mr Kouroublis."Whoever comes here takes several blows to the stomach."

A migrant man walks on railway tracks at the northern Greek border point of Idomeni, Greece

Idomeni is regarded as one of the worst refugee camps on the European migrant trail, which has increased in size followingMacedonia's decision to close its border.

Last week, in an example of the desperate situation faced by refugees in the camp, a photo emerged of a baby being washed by its parents in a puddle.

Mr Kouroublis is not the only Greek official to have spoken out against conditions in the camp.

Dimitris Avramopoulos, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship at the EU Commission, visited the camp on Tuesday.

Tents in Idomeni camp

"The situation here is tragic," he said."It doesn't honour the civilised word, it doesn't honour Europe.

He also criticised the closing of the border, saying: "All our values are in danger today, and you can see it here in Idomeni.

"I believe that by building fences, by deploying barbed wire, is not the solution.

"We have to work together.

Our target is to be in a position to relocate 6000 people per week."

#refugeecrisis

Watch full statement by Commissioner @Avramopoulos from #Idomeni[*https://t.co/YT3kdUaB27*](https://t.co/YT3kdUaB27)

- European Commission (@EU\_Commission) March 15, 2016

Living conditions - mainly tents in swathes of mud - are extremely poor in the camp.

Health workers have been warning of an imminent health crisis, as they deal with numerous diseases and a myriad mental health issues among the camp's inhabitants.

Despoina Fillipidaki, a logistician for the Red Cross, said: "We have found women in tents writhing in pain as a result of [intrauterine] foetal deaths," the

Guardian

reported.

"My biggest fear is that soon people will start to die.And what was their crime?

"All they want is a better life, to escape war, to escape poverty. And what do they get? Greece of [Nazi] occupation.These are scenes from another century, another time."

The United Nations has raised concern about shortages of food, shelter, water and sanitation in the tent city, while Save the Children condemned the "fetid" conditions.

Migrants form human chain

More than 46,000 refugees and asylum seekers are believed to be trapped in Greece after Austria and a series of Balkan countries stopped letting migrants pass through.

European Union leaders are currently holding a summit in Brussels aiming to strike a deal that could see those attempting to cross the Aegean Sea to Greece returned to Turkey.

In exchange, an equal number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** would be relocated safely directly from Turkish camps to Europe, while the country is also pushing for concessions to advance its accession to the EU.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Turkish President, has dismissed growing criticism of a military crackdown on south-eastern parts of Turkey and restrictions of press and civil freedoms that have seen dozens of academics, journalists and lawyers arrested in recent days.

He claimed European leaders were "dancing in a minefield" and supporting terrorist groups, apparently referring to the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

"At a time when Turkey is hosting three million, those who are unable to find space for a handful of refugees, who in the middle of Europe keep these innocents in shameful conditions, must first to look at themselves," Mr Erdogan said in a speech broadcast on television.

On Wednesday he said that freedom and democracy have "absolutely no value"in Turkey in the wake of several bombings and other attacks, having previously called for MPs, activists and journalists to be classified as "terrorists".

European leaders have been accused of failing to censure Turkey over alleged human rights abuses as efforts continue to secure the deal on refugees.

Human Rights Watch condemned the situation as a "new low" and said the proposed conditions put the "very principle of international protection for those fleeing war and persecution at stake".

The plan has also been heavily criticised for singling out ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, who make up roughly 40 per cent of arrivals in Europe, over Iraqis, Afghans and other groups needing protection.

An agreement could be reached at a summit in Brussels today, where the German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu were continuing negotiations.

Additional reporting by AP

**Load-Date:** March 18, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump brings campaign against windfarms to UK Supreme Court; He said the turbines would be a "monstrous" blight on the coastal landscape*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H3K-Y9M1-JCJY-G1DV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 8, 2015 Thursday 9:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK

**Length:** 333 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

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Read more

Donald Trump supports Russian efforts to tackle Isis in Syria

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Vaccinations are causing an autism 'epidemic' says Trump

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Mr Trump is not expected to attend the hearing, as he will likely be too busy campaigning in the presidential race.

Supreme Court judges are expected to deliver their verdict at a later date.

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syria air strikes: The 236 words that will decide whether we go to war against Isis in Syria; MPs will debate the motion for 10 and a half hours in Parliament on Wednesday*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HH4-W5S1-JCJY-G2NP-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 1, 2015 Tuesday 12:42 PM GMT

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**Length:** 297 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

David Cameron has published the Government's motion on bombing Isis in Syria that MPs will debate for 10 and a half hours in Parliament on Wednesday.

Here is the motion in full:

That this House notes that Isil poses a direct threat to the United Kingdom; welcomes United Nations Security Council Resolution 2249 which determines that Isil constitutes an 'unprecedented threat to international peace and security' and calls on states to take 'all necessary measures' to prevent terrorist acts by Isil and to 'eradicate the safe haven they have established over significant parts of Iraq and Syria'; further notes the clear legal basis to defend the UK and our allies in accordance with the UN Charter; notes that military action against Isil is only one component of a broader strategy to bring peace and stability to Syria; welcomes the renewed impetus behind the Vienna talks on a ceasefire and political settlement; welcomes the Government's continuing commitment to providing humanitarian support to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***; underlines the importance of planning for post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction in Syria; welcomes the Government's continued determination to cut Isil's sources of finance, fighters and weapons; notes the requests from France, the US and regional allies for UK military assistance; acknowledges the importance of seeking to avoid civilian casualties, using the UK's particular capabilities; notes the Government will not deploy UK troops in ground combat operations; welcomes the Government's commitment to provide quarterly progress reports to the House; and accordingly supports Her Majesty's Government in taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against Isil in Syria; and offers its wholehearted support to Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

**Load-Date:** December 1, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump claims women prefer to wear burka 'because they don't have to wear make-up'; Business mogul claims it is 'easier' wearing the full face veils*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H7P-J0Y1-F021-61C6-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 27, 2015 Tuesday 5:53 PM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 285 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

Donald Trumphas shared his "sexist" opinion on whywomen might prefer to wear burkas, and it's to do with make-up, or a lack of.

Speaking at a rally in New Hampshire, where he has been the frontrunnersince launching his Presidential campaign, the outspoken Republican candidatetried to use the decision to wearfull faceveils as evidence thatthe US should stop intervening in the Middle East.

"I saw a woman interviewed. They said, 'We want to wear them, we've worn them for a thousand years. Why would anybody tell us not?' They want to!" he told the audience. "What the hell are we getting involved for?

"Fact is, it's easy. You don't have to put on makeup, look how beautiful everyone looks. Wouldn't it be easier? Right? Wouldn't that be easy? I'll tell ya, if I was a woman, I'm ready darling, let's go".

Trump has criticised interventionist foreign policy throughout his campaign and even vowed to deport all ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who seek asylum in the USbecause they "might be Isis".

Read more

Trump has gone from most hated person in Mexico to Halloween hit

Vanity Fair's editor mocks Donald Trump the same way for 25 years

Donald Trump is much derided - but he is right about the Middle East

Donald Trump blames George Bush for 9/11

The business tycoon also revealed his father had given him a "small loan" of $1 million to launch his career. "I came into Manhattan and I had to pay him back, and I had to pay him back with interest," he added.

Trump went on to build his real estate empire, amassing an estimated net worth of £4.5 billion.

**Load-Date:** October 27, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Martin O'Malley fails to convince single Iowan who showed up to campaign event; Even shirtless pics of the Democratic presidential hopeful don't seemed to have improved his poll ratings*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HR5-6SJ1-F021-60VR-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 29, 2015 Tuesday 8:02 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 291 words

**Byline:** Massoud Hayoun

**Body**

Iowa state residents weren't the only ones who took a beating from a massive snowstorm sweeping the Midwestern United States - so too did the flailing campaign of Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley.

Read more

Martin O'Malley: Ex-Baltimore mayor who inspired The Wire's Tommy

The former Maryland governor was the only presidential candidate to not cancel his appearances amid inclement weather Monday, and he met with only one potential voter - who remains undecided,

NBC News

reported.

"We actually had a whopping total of one person show up. But, by God, he was glad to see me," Mr O'Malley told

NBC

of his last stop in Tama, Iowa.

But it appears he wasn't glad enough. "I wasn't surprised that he was uncommitted but I was glad that he came out to see me."

A November report from pollsters at Public Policy Polling showed Mr O'Malley with a meager 7 per cent against his party's frontrunner, Hillary Clinton, who garnered 59 per cent of those surveyed. Bernie Sanders came in second with 26 per cent.

Mr O'Malley's rating remained in the single digits despite a popular post from news site

Buzzfeed

entitled, "We need to talk about Martin O'Malley" that featured shirtless photographs of a physically fit potential so-called leader of the free world.

The photos of the then-governor of Maryland show him at the 2012 MSP Polar Bear Plunge, a fundraiser for the Special Olympics held at the Sandy Point State Park in his home state.

At other campaign events in Iowa, Mr O'Malley reportedly showed support for the push to welcome ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

"(Our work)means never slamming our door on refugees who are fleeing genocide and death," local newspaper the

Iowa Press-Citizen

quoted Mr O'Malley as saying.

**Load-Date:** December 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Body found in shipping crate in Staffordshire identified as Afghan teenager; Khalid Sorki, who is aged either 16 or 17, was named by Staffordshire Police after DNA from his body was compared with his parents*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HXG-0871-JCJY-G2F8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 23, 2016 Saturday 5:39 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 310 words

**Byline:** Peter Apps

**Body**

An Afghan teenager found dead in a shipping container in Staffordshire after trying to flee to Britain has been identified.

Khalid Sorki, aged 16 or 17, was found inside a crate of boilersalongside another manlast November.

Police managed to identifyhim by comparingDNA from his bodyto samples taken from his parents after an international search.

Read more

Germany seizing cash and valuables from refugees

Four ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** welcomed to UK after landmark legal ruling

The Calais Jungle isn't a refugee camp, it's a camp full of refugees

They revealed yesterday that he came from the war-torn Turkmen Valley area of Afghanistan, which is controlled by the Taliban.

The police said arrangements are being made to repatriate his body, with "the generous support and funding of the Afghanistan community".

The crate had arrived in the UK from northern Italy in early October, as part of a consignment of commercial boilers.

The bodies were later uncovered by staff at heating company Ferroli Ltd in Branston, Staffordshire on November 17 due to the smell coming from the crates.

Detective Chief Inspector Dave Giles of Staffordshire Police, said: "We extend our condolences to Khalid's family. It is tragic that they lost a young member of their family in such circumstances although we are pleased to have been able to provide them with some answers as to what had happened to him.

"Khalid was identified through comparing DNA samples provided by his parents with his DNA profile.

"He is believed to be 16 or 17 years old. We will never know his exact age as in Afghanistan dates of birth do not hold the same significance as they do here."

He added that progress was being made in the investigation to formally identify the second male found in the crate.

**Load-Date:** January 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron: Britain would be 'overwhelmed' if it opened its doors to every refugee; David Cameron said it was best to take refugees directly from Syria to discourage those who make the dangerous journey to Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H3F-9T11-JCJY-G13D-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 7, 2015 Wednesday 6:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 280 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

Britain "would be overwhelmed" if it opened its door to every refugee, Prime Minister David Cameron has said as he defended his position on how he plans top deal with the growing crisis.

Mr Cameron told the Conservative Party conference in his keynote speech thathe found it "impossible to get the image of that poor Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi out of my mind".

He said: "The best thing Britain can do is help neighbouring countries, the Syrian people and the refugees in the camps.

"And when we do take refugees, to take them from the region, rather than acting in a way that encourages more to make that dangerous journey."

He urged the public to remember that Britain has been helping ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over the last four years before promisingto commit to 0.7 per cent of the national income being spent on aid.

People responded to Mr Cameron's comments on Twitter:

I think @David\_Cameron just tried to suggest that the UK was doing enough to alleviate the refugee crisis. Really? #toryconference

- Chevan Ilangaratne (@Chevilang) October 7, 2015

Interesting that #Cameron talks about "refugee crisis" doesn't mention migrants

- anne penketh (@annepenketh) October 7, 2015

Shame on you Cameron that it took the pic of a dead boy for you to offer to take in more than just 216 from Syrian refugee camps #CPC15

- Ian (@Mancman10) October 7, 2015

No one is asking you to open the door to every refugee @David\_Cameron , we are asking you to take your fair share #CPC15

- Freshta Sharif (@FreshtaSharif) October 7, 2015

His speech comes after Home Secretary Theresa May said that the international definition of what counts as a "refugee" should be changed to make it harder for people to count as one.

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Jason Hewlett's post about 'sort of' cheating on his wife is unexpectedly sweet; 'I thought, "Wow, some lucky guy is with her", and in a split second I realized it was my wife!'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHT-VMV1-JCJY-G0KM-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 4, 2015 Friday 6:02 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 276 words

**Byline:** Mollie Goodfellow

**Body**

A man in the US thought he was checking out a complete stranger -before realising she was actually his wife.

Comedian Jason Hewlett, from Utah,posted a status on Facebook explaining that he initially felt bad about his feelings of attraction for the woman.

"Kind of embarrassed to admit this, but I think I sort of cheated on my wife today. To explain what I mean as I went to pay I saw this woman in line that knocked me out. I thought, "Wow, some lucky guy is with her", and in a split second I realised it was my wife!"

Kind of embarrassed to admit this, but I think I sort of cheated on my wife today. To explain what I mean, I was at...

Posted by Jason Hewlett The Entertainer onTuesday, 1 December 2015

He added that he didn't realise she would be at the store at the same time as him as she had taken a different car.

Mr Hewlett continued, writing an unexpectedly sweet post about how much he loves his wife.

"I was ultimately so pleased to see her in complete confidence on this day, as the independent, capable, humble, fun, sweet, kind, awesome person she is. And then she grabbed her things and walked out the door. I never said anything, didn't flag her down, just watched her walk away, admiringly, knowing she's my wife and I love everything about this woman."

Read more

Introducing Mouse Mingle, the first online dating site for Disney fans

Couple cancel wedding to donate money to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

The image that shows Brussels refuses to be beaten by Isis

The status went viral, with over 320,000 likes and more than 210,000 shares.

**Load-Date:** December 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Thanksgiving: Ohio pizzeria closes for holiday but invites those in need to join for a meal; TheBada Bing Pizzeria is expecting up to 100 people to come and eat*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HG3-H9J1-JCJY-G47C-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 26, 2015 Thursday 3:39 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 289 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

Maxine Hague believed the people of Springfield, Ohio, had supported her pizza restaurant since she started her business three years ago.

What better way to say thank you, she thought, to open her doors and welcome people on a day when some people might be struggling to celebrate.

So she posted on the door of the Bada Bing Pizzeria restaurant, a sign - which has since gone viral on social media - pointing out that while the restaurant will officially be closed on Thanksgiving Day, anyone who wants to join her, her staff and her family, for a meal will be very welcome.

Owner Maxine Hague said the people of Springfield had supported her business in the three years it had been there

"If you are hungry, or don't have any money, please come in," reads the sign. "We will welcome you and make sure you get plenty to eat."

Ms Hague told

The Independent

that while they would not preparing any pizzas, she and team were preparing roast turkey, ham, stuffing and "all the side dishes".

"I just think this is our community and and it's helped us, so it's our turn to give back."

Read more

Obama urges Americans to show generosity to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Thanksgiving Day: How Black Friday chewed up - and spat out -

Thanksgiving Day: Nasa's astronauts are eating irradiated turkey,

Ms Hague is readying to open her doors at 2pm and she is expecting up to 100 people. She said she had contacted a local homeless shelter in case they do not use up all the food they have purchased.

"We're entering a time of year when it can be depressing for people having to eat alone," she added. "We're saying we will be your family for the day."

**Load-Date:** November 26, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Young migrants with legal right to be in the UK 'face fear and hostility'; Refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J80-C2T1-F072-44HC-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

March 8, 2016 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 602 words

**Byline:** DEAN KIRBY

**Body**

The reality faced by young migrant men arriving in the UK, often after arduous journeys of thousands of miles, is that Britain in 2016 is a far cry from the land of their dreams.

A study by experts at the University of Manchester which forms part of a European Commission report on migration has found that the hopes of young migrants arriving here are all too quickly shattered.

While new arrivals want to work hard, start a family, play sport and lead an active social life, many face exclusion and hostility at work, in sports grounds and nightclubs, and also find themselves being unfairly treated by the public and the authorities.

Researchers are now calling for a national effort to help integrate these men into British society so that they no longer feel like second class citizens and can start reaching their full potential for the benefit of the UK economy.

"The majority of the young men we spoke to said they felt fear of victimisation or racism because they feel like second class citizens," said Jon Spencer, from the university's Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice, who led the study.

"When interviewed, they told us that a lot of their social interactions were awkward and made them feel insecure or had the potential to cause conflict or in some cases violence."

More than one in 10 people in Britain are estimated to be foreign-born, with India, Poland, Pakistan and Ireland traditionally among the biggest sources of new arrivals.

The ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** has focused the public's minds on immigration, with David Cameron announcing this week that Royal Navy warships will join Nato forces in intercepting people trying to reach Europe from Turkey.

Immigration is also a key battleground at the heart of the EU referendum, with John Whittingdale, the culture secretary, warning Mr Cameron that he must release the figures showing the "true number" of EU migrants in Britain, amid claims that public services are "creaking at the seams".

Researchers believe that a negative portrayal of migrants by politicians and the media could be making it difficult for those with legitimate rights of residence to settle, with many feeling they are constantly having to justify their status.

The European Commission study involved in-depth interviews with more than 280 migrants aged 16 to 27 in seven countries across Europe, including the UK.

"The young men we interviewed had a right of residence and aren't illegal immigrants, yet society in general isn't making them feel welcome," Mr Spencer said.

"They feel they are constantly having to justify their status and are made to feel like they don't belong here. Many we spoke to told us that they feel as if they are on the wrong side of the law, even if they've done nothing wrong.

"The perception seems to be that these young men are automatically seen at risk of engaging in criminal activity."

The researchers say it is vital that national policies are drawn up to help these men to belong and play a part in society and the economy.

"Feeling accepted and part of society is crucial to a young man's sense of wellbeing and can determine the quality of their present and future outlook," Mr Simpson said.

"There needs to be a national effort to help integrate these men and give them a sense of security. If people can feel they are members of society, it builds citizenship.

"It should be driven nationally and delivered locally, with migrant community organisations involved in creating educational strategies and developing language skills.

"These are young men who have an absolute right to be here and want to work, but they don't feel part of society."

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Breastfeeding woman dragged from refugee sit-in protest; The woman said of the incident: 'There are far worse things going on in detention camps'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9K-MC61-JCJY-G3JJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 5, 2015 Thursday 1:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** AUSTRALASIA

**Length:** 335 words

**Byline:** Olivia Blair

**Body**

A woman was dragged from a refugee sit-in protest by police while breastfeeding her son.

Video footage shows the woman, known as Jill, being removed from the Immigration Department offices in Melbourne after participating in the sit-in.

The woman was part of the groupFamilies, Friends and Feminists Against Detention (FFFAD) who held a 'Pram Jam' at the offices to support a Somalian refugee who was allegedly raped on the island of Nauru, where many asylum seekers are held.

The group state on their Facebook page they want the woman "to be give permanent resettlement options in Australia with her family".

Jill told

Buzzfeed

: "I took my 22 month old son Manny to a protest... I was breastfeeding him when the police came in to remove us, and I continued while they carried me out."

She reportedly said of the incident: "There are far worse things going on in detention camps."

"It raises the question, why are my son's feelings so important, while the well-being of children in detention is a matter of indifference?" she said.

The protest was in support of a refugee woman who was allegedly raped while being held on the Pacific island of Nauru.

According to the

BBC

, the Australian government said she could come to the country to terminate the pregnancy, however later left without doing so.

Read more

'Disgusting' police behaviour during student protest angers public

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

Asylum seeker finds 'human teeth' in meal in detention centre off Aust

There are conflicting reports as to whether this was disallowed by the government, they state that the refugee changed her mind - which she denies.

According to

Buzzfeed

, she is now in an Australian hospital.

The Independent

has contacted Victoria Police for comment.

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Australian PM: no bias against Syrian Muslims; Refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWK-FKF1-F072-41Y7-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 10, 2015 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 12

**Length:** 322 words

**Byline:** KATHY MARKS IN SYDNEY

**Body**

Australia's Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, bowed to public pressure yesterday and agreed to resettle 12,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - but senior ministers are urging him to give priority to Christian minorities.

Mr Abbott, who said Australia's commitment was one of the world's largest to date, declined to give a timetable. However, senior government officials said the intention was to complete the programme within the current financial year, which ends next June.

Earlier this week, Cabinet ministers indicated that the focus would be Syrian Christians, prompting outrage from Australian Muslims and the wider community.

Mr Abbott appeared to squash that idea yesterday, saying: "Some Muslim people are very much members of persecuted minorities ... There's Druze, there's [Iraqi] Turkmen, there's Yazidi. There are Muslim and non-Muslim persecuted minorities in this part of the world, and we are prioritising all of them."

But other Cabinet colleagues pressed for Christians to head the queue. The Senate leader, Eric Abetz, said: "It should be on the basis of need, and given the Christians are the most persecuted group in the world, and especially in the Middle East, it stands to reason they would be pretty high up on the priority list."

Malcolm Turnbull, the Communications Minister, said: "They [Christians] survived in Syria, they've been there for thousands of years... But in an increasingly sectarian Middle East, you have to ask whether the gaps... that they were able to live and survive in will any longer be available."

Backbenchers are also restive, with one warning yesterday that the new refugees would "take jobs that Australians can do".

The refugees, to be drawn from both Syria and Iraq, will be on top of the existing programme, under which Australia - 2.2 per cent of whose population is Muslim - resettled 11,570 people last year. It will also give A$44m (£96m) to the UN's refugee agency to help Syrians living in camps.

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Bob Geldof criticises George Osborne over refugee crisis as he hands him GQ Man of the Year Award; Geldof said he had no choice but to address the 'elephant in the room'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWG-55J1-F021-64WC-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 10, 2015 Thursday 4:03 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 290 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

Bob Geldof took his opportunity to blast George Osborne for the British Government's response to the refugee crisis when he presented him with a GQ award on Wednesday evening.

The singer and activist had criticised the inaction over the thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** arriving on Europe's shores earlier this week, branding the situation an "absolute, sickening, f\*\*king disgrace". Geldof also joined a number of key figures, politicians and members of the public offering their homes to refugees and urging the Government to accept a quota as the devastating humanitarian crisis worsened.

On Wednesday, he began his speech by paying tribute to the Chancellor as a "radical" politician who loved his job and Machiavellian reputation. However, he then rebuked Mr Osborne for placing numbers and percentages before human empathy.

"I can't introduce this radical politician, whichever side of the barrier you are on, without addressing the elephant in the room here tonight, and that is what's happening over in the Mediterranean, in the Middle East and in Europe," said Geldof.

"I don't want to ambush you, George, we talked about it on the phone yesterday, but the government's response is inadequate. And it can't be a numbers game.

"I don't understand how you say 20,000 [refugees] over 5 years. I don't know how that works out. It has to be a game of empathy and kindness. I genuinely believe that given your track record of 0.7 per cent with country behind you, you could probably do a lot better on that issue."

Mr Osborne responded by addressing Geldof as Dylan, a joke that failed to draw any laughs, before suggesting Geldof should have received his prize for the attention he had drawn to the plight of refugees and his humanitarian activism.

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Amir Khan says he will become full-time charity worker following retirement after being moved by refugee crisis; Khan has been in Lesbos providing aid to families escaping Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H2B-SCR1-F021-6565-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 2, 2015 Friday 3:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 259 words

**Byline:** Chris Mandle

**Body**

Amir Khan says he has been so moved by his aid work during the refugee crisis that he will become a charity worker full-time once he retires from boxing.

Khan has been on the Greek island of Lesbos helping deliver aid to hundreds of families escaping Syria.

"After my boxing career ends, it is charity that I want to get into full-time," he said in an interview.

"I want to make a difference and help people around the world, that is something I really want to do.

Currently in Lesbos supplying the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** with tents to live , food and water.

A photo posted by Amir Khan (@amirkingkhan) on

Sep 19, 2015 at 1:50pm PDT

"It will give me another adrenaline buzz like boxing does."

Khan has become well-known for his charity work, supporting causes such as Oxfam, Great Ormond Street Hospital and NSPCC.

He set up The Amir Khan Foundation to allow him to work more closely with charities he supports, and was in Lesbos as part of a partnership with Penny Appeal to deliver vital supplies to those fleeing the civil war in Syria.

Khan added that due to his extensive property portfolio - somewhere between 20 and 30 houses - he has considered housing Syrian families who have nowhere else to go.

Khan was notorious for flashing his cash when he was younger, but now he says he uses charity work to balance out the excessive purchases he makes.

"I still like the watches, but it's about balancing it as well, and I think I do," he said. "If I have to buy something, I do three times as much charity work."

**Load-Date:** October 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee 'beaten unconscious' as clashes continue with riot police on Greek island of Lesbos; Scuffles on Sunday were third in as many days*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVT-6G31-JCJY-G19C-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 6, 2015 Sunday 12:28 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 294 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

Police using riot batons have clashed with refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos, beating one unconscious and leaving several others injured.

A group of around 300 refugees protested on Sunday morning against what they say is a failure by local authorities to process them quickly enough towards mainland Europe.

The demonstration largely involved Afghans, Syrians and Iraqis, who told reporters they had received no help from the Greek government and were running out of money.

One refugee was taken away in an ambulance after the clashes, which were the third such incident in as many days.

The Greek islands are at the centre of the growing refugee crisis, as one of the first landing points for boats sailing over from Turkey.

On Saturday, a newborn baby died as his parents arrived in a boat on the shores of the island of Agathonisi. The boy was taken to a hospital on the nearby island of Samos, where he was pronounced dead. The refugee crisis - in pictures

More than 13,000 people have been moved to the Greek mainland from the islands since last Monday, the country's coastguard said, including a ferry of 2,500 on Saturday alone.

In Lesbos, the mayor of the island's main town demanded the government to more to address the situation.

"An island of 85,000 people has taken on the burden of a huge humanitarian crisis," Spyros Galinos said. "We are calling the people of Lesbos not to participate in the upcoming polls and we are clearly stating our intention not to set up ballot boxes, if there is no immediate action."

Read more: This is how desperate refugees are to enter the EUGermans stage pro-migrant rally with 'refugees welcome' bannersMay says migrants should be banned from entering the UKNumber of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** taken in by UK would fit on Tube train

**Load-Date:** September 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Where aid matters; Editorials Calls to divert development funds to flooded UK regions show a short-sighted misunderstanding of aid's impact*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HR8-CF01-F072-4373-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

December 30, 2015 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 602 words

**Body**

Why are we spending money on overseas aid in Bangladesh when we have tragedies of biblical proportions unfolding in Yorkshire? The question is worth serious consideration, if only because it is asked with such frequency.

In the long and vicious campaign against overseas aid waged by elements of the press and the more flint-hearted sections of the Conservative Party, we have become used to seeing every national disaster seized upon as a reason why, in that awful cliché, "charity begins at home". India, which receives only a small slice of British aid to alleviate some of the worst poverty on earth, is held up as a particularly egregious example of our foolishness. After all, when Indian companies control so much of our industry and they even have a space programme, why should we be spending money on their poor and not our own?

The question might be asked, with equal force, of our defence budget or the subsidies we offer to wealthy landowners and bankers, or even first-time buyers. The truth is, however hard-pressed families in Britain may be (and there are unacceptable pockets of poverty that shame the nation), they are as nothing to the struggles of millions of people without food or shelter, let alone education or healthcare.

Times are undoubtedly tough for many in Carlisle, Hebden Bridge, York and Leeds this week, and the victims of the floods deserve help - but it is not a simple choice between helping them and ensuring that a child in India or Bangladesh does not die of dysentery. We can, and should, do both.

Overseas aid is also aimed at preventing some of the very catastrophes that affect us deeply in the West, such as climate change and terrorism. No flood defences will be able to reverse global warming, and they can offer only so much protection. Successive governments could, and should, have done more to protect communities against overflowing rivers, but they should also have done much more to limit the damage humanity has inflicted on the only planet we have. Having enjoyed the benefits of industrialisation for two centuries, and trashed the planet as we polluted our way to prosperity, the West cannot now turn to the developing world and deny it the same progress.

Overseas aid should also be seen as part of the effort to curb extremism and defeat terrorism. This is never going to be an easy calculation, or a straightforward task, but in doing whatever we can to prevent civil wars and aggression (sometimes caused by competition for natural resources and the pressure of population growth), the overseas aid budget is helping to defeat the causes of terrorism. This is also a case for soft diplomacy, such as the BBC World Service and cultural exchanges, easily derided but a way of winning the argument in societies where the voices of toleration and the case for liberal values are rarely heard.

So, yes, we could chop the entire overseas aid budget and send the cash to Cumbria, Yorkshire and other affected areas; but it would not save a single home or business from being submerged and would make such events more likely in future, not less. We should long ago have learnt that what we do in this country - militarily, diplomatically and with overseas aid - has a vital impact on the rest of the world and subsequently here at home, as the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** dramatically shows.

It is one of this Government's abiding achievements that it has protected the overseas aid budget and fulfilled Britain's international duties at a time of extreme pressure on the public finances. Now is not the moment for George Osborne and David Cameron to go wet on that policy.

**Load-Date:** December 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Three Syrians arrested in Germany over alleged gang rape of two teenage girls on New Year's Eve; A 21-year-old man and two 14-year-old boys are said to have been detained in Weil am Rhein*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HT8-89B1-F021-64V0-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 8, 2016 Friday 4:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 817 words

**Byline:** John Hall

**Body**

The arrest of three Syrians in Germany over the alleged gang rape of two teenage girls on New Year's Eve has fuelled anti-refugee sentiment afterhundreds of women across the country came forward to claimthey weresexuallyassaulted on the same night.

A 21-year-old man and two 14-year-old boys are understood to have been detained in the town of Weil am Rhein on suspicion of taking girls aged 14 and 15 captive and gang raping them in an ordeal that apparently lasted several hours.

Prosecutors say the alleged rapes took place at the home of the oldest suspect in the village of Friedlingen after the girls attended a New Year's Eve party there.

Police are hunting for a fourth alleged rapist, believed to be the 15-year-old brother of the oldest suspect, according to the Telegraph.

The newspaper said the three arrested Syrians are not asylum seekers, citing local police as saying the 21 and 15-year-old suspects are long-term German residents and the 14-year-olds live in Switzerland and the Netherlands respectively.

Police officers stand in front of the main train station in Cologne on New Year's Eve

The three suspects were arrested on Sunday but details of their arrest were kept secret in an attempt to protect the victims' identities, prosecutors claim.

Although the alleged attack took place on New Year's Eve, prosecutors apparently believe it was in no way related to the flood of sexual assault claims from German cities including Cologne, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Stuttgart and Dusseldorf on the same night.

Growing fury in Germany over New Year's Eve assaults on women in Cologne

In total more than 120 criminal complaints were filed in Cologne alone, with a further 50 in Hamburg - many of them alleging that large groups of men were "hunting" female revellers during the New Year's celebrations and subjecting them to sexual assault and robbery.

Read more

Anti-Muslim group Pegida to stage rally in Cologne after sex attacks

We should look to the gender of the Cologne attackers - not their race

'Some of the Cologne sex attackers claimed to be ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

British girl describes horror witnessing Cologne sexual attacks

In many cases police described the alleged perpetrators as being of "southern or Arab" or "North African" appearance. One purportedly leaked police report appeared to claim that some suspects said they were ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and demanded to be "treated nicely" as "Mrs Merkel invited me".

Such claims have sparked anger across Germany, where many have been quick to accuse asylum seekers of carrying out the New Year's Eve sexual assaults and robberies, adding that the criminality is the result of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's unpopular "open door" refugee policy.

The policy led to the arrival of 1.1 million asylum seekers - many of them desperate Syrians fleeing their war-ravaged homeland - in 2015.

Germany's justice minister Heiko Maas yesterday warned that "deportations would certainly be conceivable" for any asylum seeker found to have taken part in the New Year's Eve attacks.

Finland also sawa spike in sexual harassment claims on New Year's Eve

The news comes asFinnish police reported an unusually high level of sexual harassment in Helsinki on New Year's Eve and said they had been tipped off about plans by groups of asylum seekers to sexually harass women.

"There hasn't been this kind of harassment on previous New Year's Eves or other occasions for that matter... This is a completely new phenomenon in Helsinki,"the Finnish capital's deputy police chief Ilkka Koskimaki told the AFP news agency.

Security guards hired to patrol the city on New Year's Eve told police there had been "widespread sexual harassment"at a central square where around 20,000 people had gathered for celebrations.

Three sexual assaults allegedly took place at Helsinki's central railway station on New Year's Eve, where around 1,000 mostly Iraqi asylum seekers are said to haveconverged.

Finnish police said they increased their preparedness for sexual assaults'to an exceptional level' on New Year's Eve after being tipped off about possible problems

"Police have...received information about three cases of sexual assault, of which two have been filed as complaints,"Helsinki police said in a statement.

"The suspects were asylum seekers. The three were caught and taken into custody on the spot," Ilkka Koskimaki told reporters.

Police said they had increased their preparedness "to an exceptional level"in Helsinki for New Year's Eve after being tipped off about possible problems.

"Ahead of New Year's Eve, the police caught wind of information that asylum seekers in the capital region possibly had similar plans to what the men gathered in Cologne's railway station have been reported to have had," police said in a statement.

**Load-Date:** January 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*EU delays decision on Turkey deal until summit in 10 days' time; Demands come as leaders meet in Brussels to discussmeasures to halt flow of migrants crossing the Aegean Seato Greece*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J7Y-X7H1-JCJY-G05C-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 7, 2016 Monday 11:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 801 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz

**Body**

European Union leaders have announced a deal at the close of their summit with Turkey. They wereset to cave in to fresh demands from Turkey for an extra (EURO)3bn in aid - double the previously agreed figure - to help prevent ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** leaving Turkish soil.

The last-minute demands came as EU leaders met in Brussels to try and agree measures to halt the flow of migrants crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece.

The aid would be provided until the end of 2018 to help Ankara shelter the estimated 2.5 million Syrians currently living in Turkey, rather than wave them on towards the EU. It is part of a package, negotiated with Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, that comes with the promise of visa-free travel for Turks wishing to visit Europe by the end of June, at least four months earlier than planned, if Ankara agrees to introduce biometric passports.

Read more

Turkey's argument on refugees is about pride - not just money

It also includes plans for a resettlement scheme under which the EU would admit one Syrian refugee for every Syrian taken back by Turkey from the Greek islands. Turkey would also readmit all "irregular" migrants - those who do not qualify for refugee status - who cross into Greek islands from Turkey.

Mr Davutoglu used the summit to push for an acceleration of talks on Turkish membership of the EU. "Turkey is ready to work with the EU, and Turkey is ready to be a member of the EU as well," he said. He also said Turkey wanted the EU to help establish humanitarian safe zones inside Syria for refugees.

The EU offer came after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused it of failing to live up to the (EURO)3bn deal agreed last November to help Turkey deal with its influx of refugees. "It's been four months. They are yet to deliver," he said. "My Prime Minister is currently in Brussels. I hope he will return with the money."

David Cameron said that Britain would not join a common asylum process in Europe (AFP)

Mr Erdogan said Turkey had spent about (EURO)10bn on the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living in the camps since 2011, and was struggling to meet the needs of a growing number of refugees.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the EU should try to slash the flow of migrants entering illegally "and not just for a few countries, but for all countries. That means for Greece too." She said there had to be a "sustainable solution" that involved protecting the EU's external borders, and "that can only be done in cooperation with Turkey".

Read more

Merkel and Juncker argue Western Balkans route 'is not closed'

Turkey says letting it join the EU would help solve the refugee crisis

EU warns Turkey seizure of Zaman newspaper 'jeopardises' accession

EU urges Turkey to help stem flow of refugees

However, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said the EU should shut its borders to migrants completely because any resettlement plan would only add "fuel to the fire" and cause more people to come. The summit comes three days after the Turkish government's seizure of Zaman, the country's largest daily newspaper. But the EU was careful not to tie the crackdown with Ankara's demands. Prime Minister David Cameron raised concerns about press freedom with Mr Davutoglu during the summit, an official said, noting that he underlined the importance of protections for a free press and human rights.

French President François Hollande added that "co-operation with Turkey doesn't mean accepting everything from Turkey". While EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said that Turkey must "respect the highest standards when it comes to democracy, rule of law and fundamental freedoms".

EU leaders were also wrangling over plans to close the so-called Balkans route, which more than one million migrants have taken over the past year as they have travelled north from Greece to Germany. The route is now effectively closed after Macedonia - backed by Austria, Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary - limited border crossings, boxing in an estimated 14,000 refugees at Greece's northern frontier.

Ms Merkel said she would block any agreement to permanently close borders. Meanwhile, Mr Cameron pledged that Britain would not take part in a planned common EU asylum policy. "We have an absolutely rock solid opt-out from these things, so there's no prospect of Britain joining a common asylum process in Europe," he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking ahead of European Commission proposals - set to be unveiled next week - to take control of asylum claims. "We will have our own asylum approach, our own way of doing things, keeping our borders. It underlines the best of both worlds, the special status that we have," Mr Cameron said.

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Three Syrians arrested in Germany over alleged gang rape of two teenage girls on New Year's Eve; A 21-year-old man and two 14-year-old boys are said to have been detained in Weil am Rhein*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HT7-DRF1-F021-648X-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 8, 2016 Friday 10:21 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 805 words

**Byline:** John Hall

**Body**

The arrest of three Syrians in Germany over the alleged gang rape of two teenage girls on New Year's Eve has fuelled anti-refugee sentiment afterhundreds of women across the country came forward to claimthey weresexuallyassaulted on the same night.

A 21-year-old man and two 14-year-old boys are understood to have been detained in the town of Weil am Rhein on suspicion of taking girls aged 14 and 15 captive and gang raping them in an ordeal that apparently lasted several hours.

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The newspaper said the three arrested Syrians are not asylum seekers, citing local police as saying the 21 and 15-year-old suspects are long-term German residents and the 14-year-olds live in Switzerland and the Netherlands respectively.

Police officers stand in front of the main train station in Cologne on New Year's Eve

The three suspects were arrested on Sunday but details of their arrest were kept secret in an attempt to protect the victims' identities, prosecutors claim.

Although the alleged attack took place on New Year's Eve, prosecutors apparently believe it was in no way related to the flood of sexual assault claims from German cities including Cologne, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Stuttgart and Dusseldorf on the same night.

In total more than 120 criminal complaints were filed in Cologne alone, with a further 50 in Hamburg - many of them alleging that large groups of men were "hunting" female revellers during the New Year's celebrations and subjecting them to sexual assault and robbery.

Read more

Anti-Muslim group Pegida to stage rally in Cologne after sex attacks

We should look to the gender of the Cologne attackers - not their race

'Some of the Cologne sex attackers claimed to be ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

British girl describes horror witnessing Cologne sexual attacks

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Finland also sawa spike in sexual harassment claims on New Year's Eve

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"The suspects were asylum seekers. The three were caught and taken into custody on the spot," Ilkka Koskimaki told reporters.

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**Load-Date:** January 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: 'Economic migrants' and asylum seekers are coming to Europe for the same reasons, report says; The Overseas Development Institute said the division is too simplistic to describe people's motives*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HN0-BC31-F021-64J8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 19, 2015 Saturday 12:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 797 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Despite the British Government's efforts to distinguish between "genuine" refugees and economic migrants, a report has found that the motivations for both groups to risk their lives in desperate attempts to reach Europe are often very similar.

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) , a UK-based independent think tank urged European leaders to develop a broader understanding of what causes people to migrate in order to respond to the current crisis.

Its

Why People Move

report said: "The evidence reveals that the asylum-seekers and economic migrants often have similar reasons for choosing to make the dangerous journey to Europe and one person may fall into both of these categories at the same time.

As winter approaches, EU needs to act fast on refugee crisis

"One common and crucial motivation is their search for a secure livelihood. Measures that aim to allow asylum seekers in, while restricting the entry of economic migrants, overlook the reasons why a particular person migrates, and are likely to increase irregular migration still further as migrants seek alternative - and often more dangerous - ways to reach European countries."

That analysis is not shared by the UK Government, which has pledged to resettle 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from United Nations camps bordering the country, rather than those who have already journeyed into Europe.

Of the more than 950,000 asylum seekers and migrants who have arrived on the continent so far this year, just under a half are Syrian according to figures from the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR).

Hundreds of thousands of people fleeing conflict and persecution in countries including Afghanistan, Iraq and Eritrea are excluded from the UK's policy, as is anyone deemed an "economic migrant".

David Cameron emphasised the distinction when he increased the UK's quota in response to public pressure in September.

The UK has seen numerous protests both for and against resettling refugees

"For those economic migrants seeking a better life, we will continue to work to break the link between getting on a boat and getting settlement in Europe, discouraging those who don't have a genuine claim from embarking on these perilous and sometimes lethal journeys," the Prime Minister said.

"For those genuine refugees fleeing civil war, we will act with compassion and continue to provide sanctuary."

The ODI's analysis cast doubt on the idea of a "genuine claim" for taking treacherous journeys across the Mediterranean and Aegean seas.

Its report said that although safety and a better life are often cited as separate motives for migrants, that they usually cross over.

A general view of a shelter for migrants inside a hangar of the former Tempelhof airport in Berlin, Germany

"One person's motives may change in nature and in importance during their journey, suggesting that categorising individuals as 'economic migrants' or 'asylum-seekers' does not reflect the complex and fluid reality of people's experience of migration," it concluded.

Numerous right-wing politicians have claimed that many of those arriving in Europe are attracted by countries' welfare policies and economies but the ODI argued that neither had a significant impact on people's decision to leave their home countries.

"A person's need to leave their home - or flee from it in the face of extreme danger - is likely to be far more important to their decision to migrate than the lure of another country's welfare," it said.

However, the policies and rules of different destination countries, such as Germany's unlimited invitation to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** earlier this year, was found to influence subsequent decisions.

The ODI's report said another factor contributing to the phenomenal rise in irregular migration is the growing "professionalisation" of people smugglers driving migrants through the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

A greater availability of information on the internet and the use of social media was also said to facilitate movement, with a "culture of migration" forming and being reinforced by existing networks.

Despite the onset of winter and tightening of borders in Hungary and other nations making the journey into Europe ever more difficult, the influx of people continues, with arrivals forecast to pass 1 million this year.

The crisis, as well as the unrelated threat of Isis terror attacks, have prompted tighter broder security throughout the European Union but the ODI fears this will only force asylum seekers to resort to increasingly desperate measures.

"There is strong evidence that while tightening border security may change migration routes, and often results in more people making more dangerous journeys, migration policies are unlikely to influence the actual number of people migrating," the report said.

**Load-Date:** December 19, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Right-wingers more likely than lefties to see themselves as morally superior, study finds; However they're also more likely to believe some people are born evil*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H2J-3B31-JCJY-G28X-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 3, 2015 Saturday 11:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK

**Length:** 319 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

It's an old stereotypethat left-wingers consider themselves morally superior to other people, but new researchsuggests those on the political right are more likely to think they're superior.

A YouGov survey of 1,646 Britons found those who are on the right are more likely to regard themselves as morally superior.

Right-wingers are more likely to see themselves as morally superior

Read more

Labour issues first party political broadcast featuring Jeremy Corbyn

2,200 people join Labour in 24 hours after Jeremy Corbyn's speech

Boris Johnson 'favourite among voters to replace David Cameron'

Burnham: Cameron is doing nowhere near enough to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Jeremy Corbyn asks PM to stop Saudi Arabia's planned execution

The survey found 47 per cent of those who describe themselves as very or fairly right-wing or right-of-centre say they thought they were more of a good person than the average Briton, while 43 per cent said they were about as good.

Significantly fewer left-wingers, 39 per cent,thought they were morally superior, and just over half said they were about as good as others.

Those in the centre were most likely to say they were about as good as the average Briton.

The research also found right-wingers are more likely to believe some people are born evil.

Right-wingers are more likely to believe some people are born evil

While 25 per cent of those on the left say some people are born evil, 39 per cent of right-wingers think the same.

Those who place themselves on the political centre have similar views to those on the right, with 37 per cent saying some people are born evil.

However, of the whole sample polled, 68 per cent said they believed there were more good people than bad people in the world.

**Load-Date:** October 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Cologne sex assaults: Leaked report reveals extent police were overwhelmed by New Year's Eve violence; Angry women protest against 'utter incompetence' of police as number of cases from night of violence rises to 516*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HTT-BSC1-F021-606G-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 10, 2016 Sunday 9:25 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 756 words

**Byline:** Tony Paterson

**Body**

The number of women claiming to have been victims of a spate of sexual assaults and muggings in Cologne on New Year's Eve rose to 516 on Sunday, amid new evidence that police were completely overwhelmed by the violence, largely blamed on foreigners.

The figures were a rise of more than a third from the 379 cases that had been reported by Saturday. Some 40 per cent of the complaints included sexual assault and there were two reports of rape. Police in Hamburg said they have lodged 133 similar charges.

Officers deployed outside Cologne's main railway station where the attacks occurred arrested only four suspects on the night and merely took the names of 71 other possible offenders, according to a police report published by Germany's Die Welt am Sonntag newspaper.

Read more

Number of cases in Cologne New Year's Eve violence probe rises to 516

On Sunday afternoon groups of angry women braved the cold and stood on the steps of Cologne's cathedral, opposite the railway station, to continue the protest against what they said was "utter incompetence" by the police.

"We want those responsible for the sex attacks to be brought to justice," said Laura Stöckmann, a 20-year-old Cologne textile design student who witnessed the attacks. "But so far the police seem to being doing nothing," she said.

They were joined by a group of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who held up placards proclaiming, "Syrians are decent people". But Abdul Rahman a 25-year-old Syrian who arrived in Germany last year, said it was "possible" that some Syrians from his asylum hostel had taken part in the violence.

Growing fury in Germany over New Year's Eve assaults on women in Cologne

The attacks have so far been blamed on gangs of predominantly North African immigrants from Algeria and Morocco who are well known to Cologne police as pickpockets and muggers who frequent the station. Many are thought to be illegal immigrants whose asylum requests have been rejected.

Federal authorities say they have identified 18 asylum-seekers among 31 suspects linked to the crimes in Cologne. Also among the suspects were two Germans, an American and others. None was specifically accused of sexual assault.

A leaked police account of the Cologne violence, compiled by North Rhine-Westphalia's Federal Criminal Bureau, described in harrowing detail what the female victims suffered. "The attackers stuck their fingers through the tights and the underwear of their victims, they were surrounded on all sides, grabbed and fingered," the report said. It said most attackers had "bloodshot eyes" and were probably either drunk or on drugs.

Read more

Merkel backs expulsion for refugee criminals after Cologne attacks

The Federal Criminal Bureau said that such a form of mass sexual molestation was hitherto unknown in Germany but that similar violence had occurred in Egypt on Cairo's Tahrir Square during the Arab Spring.

Police also published a note scribbled on a large piece of paper which had been found at the scene of the attacks with the message "I want to f\*\*\*" written in German and Arabic.

On Sunday Cologne police officer who declined to be named told the German media that he and other officers had questioned around 100 suspects who were briefly detained on New Year's Eve and discovered that most were ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who had only recently arrived in Germany. "They showed us the documents they get after they apply for asylum," he said.

Read more

Police use water cannon on anti-immigration Pegida protest

Similar sexual assaults also occurred in Hamburg, Stuttgart and Bielefeld. The Justice Minister, Heiko Maas, said there was no doubt in his mind that the violence was co-ordinated. "Nobody can tell me that all this was not pre-arranged and organised," he said. Police have yet to confirm his claims.

The Interior Minister, Thomas de Maizière, has pledged to increase the number of police video cameras across Germany to deter future incidents of mass crime.

The apparent origin of many of the attackers has continued to fuel critics of Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door refugee policies, which have enabled more than one million migrants to enter Germany over the past year.

On Saturday, she announced plans to speed up the expulsion of criminal asylum-seekers. She has refused to accede to the demands of many in her party who want an upper limit set on the influx, although she has pledged to take in fewer refugees over the next 12 months.

The Cologne attacks have also been seized upon by far-right and anti-Islamic movements to justify their virulently anti-immigrant views.

**Load-Date:** January 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: 700 children a day now claiming asylum on European soil; Exclusive: Unicef calls on UK to act as figures reveal more than 190,000 children have sought asylum in Britain this year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H90-Y501-JCJY-G4PN-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 2, 2015 Monday 8:20 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 804 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill

**Body**

Up to 700 children a day are now claiming asylum on European soil, as new figures reveal that twice as many child refugees are arriving this year compared to 2014.

Unicef is calling on the UK to act over the crisis as pressure mounts on David Cameron to do more to help the most vulnerable refugees before the arrival of winter.There are calls to prioritise protecting children from violence in advance of the first world humanitarian summit next year.

In a new report, seen exclusively by

The Independent

, Unicef UK reveals that between January and September this year, more than 190,000 children sought asylumasylum in Britain, compared to 98,000 in the same period last year. The charity says conflict across the Middle East is forcing families to make the increasingly perilous journey to Greece and across Europe.

Read more

Ex-soldier faces jail for 'crime of compassion' in Calais Jungle

One in 10 of the world's children are now growing up in a conflict zone - some 230 million children, while in Syria one in five children are forced to cross a conflict line to take exams or get to school, according to the report.

In Yemen, 573 children have been killed since fighting escalated in March, while child labour has been recorded among ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. There have also been widespread reports of sexual violence against girls.

The charity, which said it helped protect more than three million children last year, placing 33,000 unaccompanied children in places of safety, is asking people to call on the Prime Minister to protect children from violence.

Austria: Refugees make fires for warmth at the Slovenia border

"Children have been killed while studying in the classroom, recovering in hospital or sleeping in their beds. Many have been orphaned, forced to become soldiers, kidnapped, raped and traumatised," said Unicef's UK deputy executive director Lily Caprani.

"Protecting children from violence is life-saving, just as much as water, shelter and medicine, yet it isn't prioritised in the same way. This has to change."

Yvette Cooper, the chair of Labour's refugee taskforce, who recently visited the Greek island of Lesbos to witness the 7,000 refugees who arrive on the island on a daily basis, said: "Children are suffering most in this refugee crisis - and it is getting worse not better... too many of them are enduring things that no child should ever have to go through.

Read more

'Airbnb for refugeees' started by German couple spreads around world

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beaten with baseball bats by masked gang in Germany

Four babies among 11 refugees drowned near Greece

Refugees 'being treated like sheep in pens' in Slovenia

Slovenia struggling to cope with refugees in chaotic scenes at border

"For Britain to take just 4,000 refugees this year is not enough... We will look back with shame if we allow more children to die needlessly because of our inaction."

The Unicef figures have also prompted renewed concern over the safety of unaccompanied children arriving in Europe, after a refugee boy was allegedly kidnapped from a refugee centre, abused and killed. Germany's federal commissioner for child sexual abuse warned that there was a risk of sex offenders gaining access to refugee camps.

Johannes-Wilhelm Roerig said there was a "scandalous" lack of control at asylum centres as overburdened authorities struggle to cope with thousands of refugees arriving in Europe daily.

According to Save the Children, more than 13,000 unaccompanied children arrived in Italy alone last year, which at the time was the major route into Europe.

The charity said that it expects that figure to double this year as more unaccompanied children arrive through Greece and the Balkans.

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Yvette Cooper, chair of Labour's refugee taskforce

Gemma Parkin, a spokeswoman for Save the Children, said: "Action is not going in the right direction. Unaccompanied children remain the most vulnerable, at risk of the gravest form of exploitation and trafficking.

"Save the Children is calling for the UK government to offer to relocate up to 3,000 unaccompanied children, in order to do our fair share."

There are also concerns among aid workers in the Balkans that winter weather and prolonged periods outside will lead to fatalities among young children travelling across Europe, not just on the shores of Greek islands.

Gorana Dojcinovic, a Unicef co-ordinator in Croatia, said that the charity was already concerned at the number of cases of nappy rash and diarrhoea among young children.

**Load-Date:** November 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Afghan's shooting is grim landmark as EU hardens its heart against refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H5G-CJ61-JCS0-D0S7-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

October 17, 2015 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 787 words

**Byline:** LEO CENDROWICZ IN BRUSSELS

**Body**

An as-yet-unnamed 25-year-old man has become the first refugee to be shot dead trying to enter the European Union when he was struck by a bullet fired by a Bulgarian border guard. The young Afghan, who died on Thursday night, had been among 54 refugees making their way to a better life in Europe when two guards tried to stop them.

He may be just one of thousands to perish on the hazardous journey westwards this year, and just one soul among the more than 700,000 refugees to seek asylum in the EU. But his death is a shocking illustration of the irony that, even as the EU opens its gates to refugees, it is adding guards to these gates.

The young Afghan's death is just one element in the whirling vortex of Europe's refugee crisis, but it is a particularly grim landmark. Officials say he was probably killed by a stray bullet that ricocheted off the bridge under which he was hiding, near the town of Sredets in south-east Bulgaria - around 20 miles from the border with Turkey, a country that has become pivotal to the EU's response to the crisis.

Within Bulgaria, the death prompted widely different reactions. Atanas Atanassov, the chair of the parliamentary committee on internal security and a minority partner in the coalition government, said: "In such a situation, we are talking about murder." But Valeri Simeonov, co-leader of the nationalist Patriotic Front, took a contrasting stance. "The Bulgarian border police officers should be given medals because they were doing their job," he said.

Such opposing opinions are reflected across the EU, where the refugee crisis has stirred both generous humanity and ugly insularity. At the moment the Afghan was shot, EU leaders were meeting on the opposite edge of the continent in Brussels to discuss their refugee policy. Upon hearing the news, the Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov left the summit and headed home.

It meant that Mr Borisov missed the grand declarations at the summit's conclusion about new measures to deal with the crisis. The Prime Minister David Cameron and other leaders agreed to ease visa restrictions for Turkey's 78 million citizens and speed up EU entry talks as part of a deal aimed at securing Turkey's support in stemming the flood of refugees westwards.

With 2.5 million Syrians currently in refugee camps on Turkish soil, Ankara's co-operation is essential in preventing an exodus into the EU. The European Council President Donald Tusk, chairing the fourth Brussels summit on the refugee crisis in six months, said an agreement with Turkey "makes sense only if it contains the flow of refugees".

The broader refugee plan involves beefing up border controls, returning unwanted migrants, and giving the EU's border agency Frontex more power to expel rejected asylum-seekers. Patrolling the EU's external borders will be crucial. Bulgaria has built a 20-mile razor-wire fence along part of its porous 160-mile frontier with Turkey, and sent some 2,000 border guards, police and troops to guard the rest. Hungary, meanwhile, said yesterday it had finished building a barrier along its border with Croatia, a much-used migrant crossing point, and would seal the border to migrants at midnight.

But Turkey is the key to any successful refugee plan. While the leaders did not agree on any firm aid figure, the German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has faced a public opinion backlash for her pro-refugee stance, said afterwards that the EU was considering a Euro 3bn (£2.2bn) package - which would still be less than half the Euro 7bn that Turkey has spent hosting ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. "In the future we have to be stronger on burden sharing," she said.

Even so, the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan mocked the EU's contribution yesterday. "They announce they'll take in 30,000 to 40,000 refugees and then they are nominated for the Nobel for that. We're hosting two and a half million refugees but nobody cares," Mr Erdogan said, referring to the EU's 2012 Nobel Peace Prize win.

Any agreement would depend on Ankara dismantling the criminal networks that smuggle migrants, and agreeing to take back migrants who transit Turkey but are denied EU refugee status.

The negotiations come as Turkey is gearing up for parliamentary elections on 1 November. The EU has criticised Mr Erdogan's increasing authoritarianism and its leaders are wary of granting him a pre-election propaganda coup. Yet they feel they have little choice but to play his game: with more dead children washing up on Greek beaches, the prospect of still more ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** has concentrated their minds. A European Commission progress report, expected to be critical of developments in Turkey and due to be released this week, has been postponed until after the elections.

**Load-Date:** October 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: 700 children a day now claiming asylum on European soil; Exclusive: Unicef calls on UK to act as figures reveal more than 190,000 children have sought asylum in Europe this year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H95-P4M1-JCJY-G2W5-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 3, 2015 Tuesday 1:24 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 822 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill

**Body**

Up to 700 children a day are now claiming asylum on European soil, as new figures reveal that twice as many child refugees are arriving this year compared to 2014.

Unicef is calling on the UK to act over the crisis as pressure mounts on David Cameron to do more to help the most vulnerable refugees before the arrival of winter.There are calls to prioritise protecting children from violence in advance of the first world humanitarian summit next year.

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Read more

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Austria: Refugees make fires for warmth at the Slovenia border

"Children have been killed while studying in the classroom, recovering in hospital or sleeping in their beds. Many have been orphaned, forced to become soldiers, kidnapped, raped and traumatised," said Unicef's UK deputy executive director Lily Caprani.

"Protecting children from violence is life-saving, just as much as water, shelter and medicine, yet it isn't prioritised in the same way. This has to change."

Yvette Cooper, the chair of Labour's refugee taskforce, who recently visited the Greek island of Lesbos to witness the 7,000 refugees who arrive on the island on a daily basis, said: "Children are suffering most in this refugee crisis - and it is getting worse not better... too many of them are enduring things that no child should ever have to go through.

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Four babies among 11 refugees drowned near Greece

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"For Britain to take just 4,000 refugees this year is not enough... We will look back with shame if we allow more children to die needlessly because of our inaction."

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"Save the Children is calling for the UK government to offer to relocate up to 3,000 unaccompanied children, in order to do our fair share."

There are also concerns among aid workers in the Balkans that winter weather and prolonged periods outside will lead to fatalities among young children travelling across Europe, not just on the shores of Greek islands.

Gorana Dojcinovic, a Unicef co-ordinator in Croatia, said that the charity was already concerned at the number of cases of nappy rash and diarrhoea among young children.

You can sign Unicef's petition calling on David Cameron to protect children in emergencies at unicef.uk/protect

**Load-Date:** November 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*German charity Uber den Tellerrand asks refugee chefs to share recipes from their home countries; Rachael Pells gets a taste of their culinary memories*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHT-8RH1-F021-61G8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 4, 2015 Friday 4:00 PM GMT

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**Section:** FEATURES

**Length:** 771 words

**Byline:** Rachael Pells

**Body**

When Hadi Nsreeny arrived in Germany from Syria earlier this year, he was exhausted and alone. "When I first arrived, I didn't know anyone," he says. "It was so hard."

Originally a web developer, Nsreeny's life in Aleppo was very far removed from the one he lives now in Berlin. "I spent four years of my life sitting behind my Mac," he says. "Now I'm planning to become a professional chef."

As one of 1.5 million refugees expected to arrive in the city by the end of 2015, Nsreeny was approached on the street by the charity group Über den Tellerrand and invited along to a community cooking class. "The media coverage was all about the challenges and problems involved with migrants coming in," explains Lisa Thaens, the head of intercultural communications at the charity. "What if we could do something positive that helped change people's perceptions and do good for the people who were seeking refuge?"

Two years on from its beginnings, Über den Tellerrand is now a 300-strong community which runs a host of projects across a number of German cities. From cooking classes to language exchanges, its aim is to help refugees to integrate and find purpose through new activities, while changing natives' perceptions of the refugee community.

And from 7 December until 11 January, British diners can get a taste of the results of the project. The recipe box delivery service Marley Spoon - which delivers recipes and their ingredients for customers to cook at home - will be partnering with the group and incorporating recipes from some of the Syrian, Afghan and African refugee chefs involved.

Read more

More than 1,000 Rabbis call on United States to welcome refugees

Texas sues US government to keep out ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Germany 'made pact with Turkey for EU to take 500,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

Britons twice as hostile as French to refugees after Paris attacks

Russia and Norway in battle to repeatedly reject the same refugees

It's a chance for UK customers to make and try new delicacies such as Afghan carrot soup with red lentil, yoghurt and pitta bread, and Arabic sweet spiced chicken with raisin and almond rice. What's more, it's a chance to get to know the stories and memories from the cooks involved, with 100 per cent of the profits being donated straight back to the charity project.

"We wanted to show the migration from a positive angle," says Thaens, who works first hand with the refugees and local volunteers. "Our first idea was the cookbook. We collected recipes from people camping on the street and invited them to come along and try it. Our message was always that these are people with their own culture who we can learn something from."

The professional cooking classes take place every two weeks in the Über den Tellerrand hub, with a variety of community meetings taking place each week. Then there are "spin-off" groups taking place on the days in between, such as yoga, language exchanges, offering routine and building trust between those involved.

"I think it's important to make sure that not only are people's basic needs covered but we should go a step further to helping them integrate and help them to get their self-esteem back and do fun things."

Arabic sweet spiced chicken with raisin and almond rice(Alex Freundorfer)

Four months after participating in his first cookery class, Nsreeny is working with the Marley Spoon project first hand. "I do a bit of everything," he says, "from cooking for the project to creating new recipes and sharing traditional ones from my family. I just love it."

One of his favourite dishes is called mhshi. "It's a courgette dish stuffed with rice, meat, tomato and seasoning. The dish means a lot to me because we used to make it in summertime with friends," Nsreeny says.

"With Über den Tellerrand I found myself. It's no longer an experience; it's my life," he adds. "Through this initiative I've made amazing friends, have had some awesome times, and now have got an internship in a restaurant because of them. There's nothing worse than having nothing to do and no prospects when you move to a new country, but food is like a bridge - I can try your food and it brings us together. I love taking recipes that I've tried at home to recreate myself. Now I have stronger friendships here than I had back in Syria. It makes me feel at home."

Marley Spoon recipe boxes start from £4.35 per portion and can be delivered across the UK; marleyspoon.co.uk; ueberdentellerrand.org

**Load-Date:** December 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Uber den Tellerrand: German fresh-food delivery company asks refugee chefs to share their recipes; Rachael Pells gets a taste of their culinary memories*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHM-0B61-F021-63R2-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 3, 2015 Thursday 8:35 PM GMT

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**Length:** 771 words

**Byline:** Rachel Pells

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Marley Spoon recipe boxes start from £4.35 per portion and can be delivered across the UK; marleyspoon.co.uk; ueberdentellerrand.org

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*German charity Uber den Tellerrand asks refugee chefs to share recipes from their home countries; Rachael Pells gets a taste of their culinary memories*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHM-0B61-F021-63R3-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 3, 2015 Thursday 8:39 PM GMT

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**Section:** FEATURES

**Length:** 771 words

**Byline:** Rachel Pells

**Body**

When Hadi Nsreeny arrived in Germany from Syria earlier this year, he was exhausted and alone. "When I first arrived, I didn't know anyone," he says. "It was so hard."

Originally a web developer, Nsreeny's life in Aleppo was very far removed from the one he lives now in Berlin. "I spent four years of my life sitting behind my Mac," he says. "Now I'm planning to become a professional chef."

As one of 1.5 million refugees expected to arrive in the city by the end of 2015, Nsreeny was approached on the street by the charity group Über den Tellerrand and invited along to a community cooking class. "The media coverage was all about the challenges and problems involved with migrants coming in," explains Lisa Thaens, the head of intercultural communications at the charity. "What if we could do something positive that helped change people's perceptions and do good for the people who were seeking refuge?"

Two years on from its beginnings, Über den Tellerrand is now a 300-strong community which runs a host of projects across a number of German cities. From cooking classes to language exchanges, its aim is to help refugees to integrate and find purpose through new activities, while changing natives' perceptions of the refugee community.

And from 7 December until 11 January, British diners can get a taste of the results of the project. The recipe box delivery service Marley Spoon - which delivers recipes and their ingredients for customers to cook at home - will be partnering with the group and incorporating recipes from some of the Syrian, Afghan and African refugee chefs involved.

Read more

More than 1,000 Rabbis call on United States to welcome refugees

Texas sues US government to keep out ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Germany 'made pact with Turkey for EU to take 500,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

Britons twice as hostile as French to refugees after Paris attacks

Russia and Norway in battle to repeatedly reject the same refugees

It's a chance for UK customers to make and try new delicacies such as Afghan carrot soup with red lentil, yoghurt and pitta bread, and Arabic sweet spiced chicken with raisin and almond rice. What's more, it's a chance to get to know the stories and memories from the cooks involved, with 100 per cent of the profits being donated straight back to the charity project.

"We wanted to show the migration from a positive angle," says Thaens, who works first hand with the refugees and local volunteers. "Our first idea was the cookbook. We collected recipes from people camping on the street and invited them to come along and try it. Our message was always that these are people with their own culture who we can learn something from."

The professional cooking classes take place every two weeks in the Über den Tellerrand hub, with a variety of community meetings taking place each week. Then there are "spin-off" groups taking place on the days in between, such as yoga, language exchanges, offering routine and building trust between those involved.

"I think it's important to make sure that not only are people's basic needs covered but we should go a step further to helping them integrate and help them to get their self-esteem back and do fun things."

Arabic sweet spiced chicken with raisin and almond rice(Alex Freundorfer)

Four months after participating in his first cookery class, Nsreeny is working with the Marley Spoon project first hand. "I do a bit of everything," he says, "from cooking for the project to creating new recipes and sharing traditional ones from my family. I just love it."

One of his favourite dishes is called mhshi. "It's a courgette dish stuffed with rice, meat, tomato and seasoning. The dish means a lot to me because we used to make it in summertime with friends," Nsreeny says.

"With Über den Tellerrand I found myself. It's no longer an experience; it's my life," he adds. "Through this initiative I've made amazing friends, have had some awesome times, and now have got an internship in a restaurant because of them. There's nothing worse than having nothing to do and no prospects when you move to a new country, but food is like a bridge - I can try your food and it brings us together. I love taking recipes that I've tried at home to recreate myself. Now I have stronger friendships here than I had back in Syria. It makes me feel at home."

Marley Spoon recipe boxes start from £4.35 per portion and can be delivered across the UK; marleyspoon.co.uk; ueberdentellerrand.org

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Thousands prepare to march through London for 'positive change'; The Prime Minister said Britain would fulfil its 'moral responsibilities' by taking in thousands more refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVB-Y4P1-F021-6199-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 4, 2015 Friday 12:12 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 815 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

More than 66,000 people have signed up to march through London to demand "positive change" in Britain's stance towards refugees.

Protesters will mass two days before Theresa May attends emergency EU talks on the continuing crisis as political pressure continues to mount on the UK.

David Cameron has vowed to take "thousands more" ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, but only those who are in designated camps, rather than people who have already arrived elsewhere in Europe.

Outrage over the deaths of thousands of desperate men, women and children trying to reach Europe has been galvanised by photos of Aylan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian boy who drowned when his family's boat capsized on the way to Greece.

Organisers of the Solidarity with Refugees march said people fleeing conflict must be allowed to reach Europe safely, rather than entrusting their lives to ruthless smugglers.

Read more: PM: Britain will take 'thousands more' refugeesMore than 200,000 people sign Independent petitionAylan Kurdi's father describes moment children 'slipped away'

Ros Ereira and Abdulaziz Almashi wrote on Facebook: "There needs to be either official safe transport provided, or if people could apply for asylum from outside the EU they would be able to enter by official routes.

"We need to prioritise the fast processing of asylum claims from people from particularly dangerous regions, such as Syria.

"We can't allow any EU countries to close their borders or build fences. There needs to be Europe-wide consensus on providing help where it is so desperately needed, relieving pressure on the Mediterranean countries." Refugees Welcome: Supporters back The Independent's campaign

The pair said that the Home Secretary must meet her counterparts with knowledge that the "conviction that the British people she represents are open to helping refugees".

"We can't continue to allow thousands to die trying to reach the EU and their legal right to claim asylum," their statement added.

Another petition, started by Zoe Fritz, has gathered more than 200 signatories who say they are personally willing to house ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

"We must persuade the Government that there are those who wish policy to change and are willing to offer space in their homes to facilitate that change," Ms Fritz wrote.

Similar schemes have gained huge support in Iceland and Germany.

More than 245,000 people have signed a petition started by this newspaper asking the Prime Minister to allow Britain to accept a fair share of refugees, and thousands more have shared photos of themselves on social media as part of the Refugees Welcome campaign.

Read more:  How this crisis compares to previous crises'We're doing enough', says Cameron in response to refugee crisisSign The Independent's petition to welcome refugees

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron and Natalie Bennett, the leader of the Green Party, are among those adding pressure on the Prime Minister to act.

Mr Cameron has announced the UK will continue its "existing schemes" to resettle refugees, providing them with a "direct and safe route to the UK", but did not specify how many more people the country would take in.

The Prime Minister told reporters yesterday that he was "deeply moved" by the photos of Aylan's body and that Britain's response to the crisis was "under review", promising the UK would fulfil its "moral responsibilities".

Pressure was further ramped up yesterday by a joint declaration by the leaders of Germany and France, proposing a system of "compulsory and permanent" residence for refugees across Europe.

Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, has been a leading voice in calling for European states to share the burden as her country prepares to accept 800,000 refugees this year.

But previous proposals for compulsory national quotas were met with resistance by several EU members, including Hungary and other eastern nations on the land route used by people migrating through the Balkans.

Britain has so far declined to join a UN scheme for resettling the most vulnerable refugees, instead setting up its own programme that has admitted around 216 over the past year. Some 5,000 Syrians have been granted asylum in the last four years.

By contrast, Germany has accepted 35,000 vulnerable Syrians through the UN scheme, Canada more than 10,000, Australia 5,600 and Switzerland 3,500.

The UN's high commissioner for refugees, Antonio Guterres, said today that this "piecemeal approach" cannot continue.

"No country can do it alone, and no country can refuse to do its part," he added.

"The only way to solve this problem is for the Union and all member states to implement a common strategy, based on responsibility, solidarity and trust."

This newspaper has started a campaign for the UK to welcome a fair share of refugees.

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

Additional reporting by PA

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: 700 children a day now claiming asylum on European soil; Exclusive: Unicef calls on UK to act as figures reveal more than 190,000 children have sought asylum in Europe this year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H91-73G1-F021-6073-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 2, 2015 Monday 10:57 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 804 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill

**Body**

Up to 700 children a day are now claiming asylum on European soil, as new figures reveal that twice as many child refugees are arriving this year compared to 2014.

Unicef is calling on the UK to act over the crisis as pressure mounts on David Cameron to do more to help the most vulnerable refugees before the arrival of winter.There are calls to prioritise protecting children from violence in advance of the first world humanitarian summit next year.

In a new report, seen exclusively by

The Independent

, Unicef UK reveals that between January and September this year, more than 190,000 children sought asylumasylum in Britain, compared to 98,000 in the same period last year. The charity says conflict across the Middle East is forcing families to make the increasingly perilous journey to Greece and across Europe.

Read more

Ex-soldier faces jail for 'crime of compassion' in Calais Jungle

One in 10 of the world's children are now growing up in a conflict zone - some 230 million children, while in Syria one in five children are forced to cross a conflict line to take exams or get to school, according to the report.

In Yemen, 573 children have been killed since fighting escalated in March, while child labour has been recorded among ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. There have also been widespread reports of sexual violence against girls.

The charity, which said it helped protect more than three million children last year, placing 33,000 unaccompanied children in places of safety, is asking people to call on the Prime Minister to protect children from violence.

Austria: Refugees make fires for warmth at the Slovenia border

"Children have been killed while studying in the classroom, recovering in hospital or sleeping in their beds. Many have been orphaned, forced to become soldiers, kidnapped, raped and traumatised," said Unicef's UK deputy executive director Lily Caprani.

"Protecting children from violence is life-saving, just as much as water, shelter and medicine, yet it isn't prioritised in the same way. This has to change."

Yvette Cooper, the chair of Labour's refugee taskforce, who recently visited the Greek island of Lesbos to witness the 7,000 refugees who arrive on the island on a daily basis, said: "Children are suffering most in this refugee crisis - and it is getting worse not better... too many of them are enduring things that no child should ever have to go through.

Read more

'Airbnb for refugeees' started by German couple spreads around world

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beaten with baseball bats by masked gang in Germany

Four babies among 11 refugees drowned near Greece

Refugees 'being treated like sheep in pens' in Slovenia

Slovenia struggling to cope with refugees in chaotic scenes at border

"For Britain to take just 4,000 refugees this year is not enough... We will look back with shame if we allow more children to die needlessly because of our inaction."

The Unicef figures have also prompted renewed concern over the safety of unaccompanied children arriving in Europe, after a refugee boy was allegedly kidnapped from a refugee centre, abused and killed. Germany's federal commissioner for child sexual abuse warned that there was a risk of sex offenders gaining access to refugee camps.

Johannes-Wilhelm Roerig said there was a "scandalous" lack of control at asylum centres as overburdened authorities struggle to cope with thousands of refugees arriving in Europe daily.

According to Save the Children, more than 13,000 unaccompanied children arrived in Italy alone last year, which at the time was the major route into Europe.

The charity said that it expects that figure to double this year as more unaccompanied children arrive through Greece and the Balkans.

For Britain to take just 4,000 refugees this year is not enough... We will look back with shame if we allow more children to die needlessly because of our inaction

Yvette Cooper, chair of Labour's refugee taskforce

Gemma Parkin, a spokeswoman for Save the Children, said: "Action is not going in the right direction. Unaccompanied children remain the most vulnerable, at risk of the gravest form of exploitation and trafficking.

"Save the Children is calling for the UK government to offer to relocate up to 3,000 unaccompanied children, in order to do our fair share."

There are also concerns among aid workers in the Balkans that winter weather and prolonged periods outside will lead to fatalities among young children travelling across Europe, not just on the shores of Greek islands.

Gorana Dojcinovic, a Unicef co-ordinator in Croatia, said that the charity was already concerned at the number of cases of nappy rash and diarrhoea among young children.

**Load-Date:** November 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Chilcot inquiry finally has a delivery date - but we already know its key finding; The two-million-word document - give or take the odd footnote - will be published in June or July next year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H85-B671-JCJY-G1SM-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 29, 2015 Thursday 10:49 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 538 words

**Byline:** Editorial

**Body**

For most of the past seven years, since it was set up by the then Prime Minister Gordon Brown, there has been little idea of when the Iraq Inquiry would report. More recently the delays had gone on for so long that some were asking, not entirely sarcastically, if it would ever report. The proceedings have taken two or three times longer than the Iraq war itself, and one member of the panel, the distinguished historian Sir Martin Gilbert, has sadly passed away.

Now, the chair of the inquiry, Sir John Chilcot, has told us when the waiting will be over. The two-million-word document - give or take the odd footnote - will be published in June or July next year, more than a decade after the war formally ended. There have been many theories, conspiracy and otherwise, about the inordinate delay. "Maxwellisation", the endless process of cross-checking of amended statements between witnesses, added a complexity to an already monumental task. For while it was right that one overarching inquiry should indeed look at all aspects of the planning and conduct of the war and its aftermath - it was after all the worst British foreign policy blunder in a century or more - that vast remit left the Chilcot team with an almost unmanageable volume of material to examine.

Read more

Chilcot faces calls to accelerate report's release amid further delays

Reluctance by the American authorities to disclose sensitive information was a further factor, as was reticence in our own Cabinet Office. The Chilcot inquiry also had to contend with the existence of other lines of inquiry by select committees and tribunals, as well as taking due account of the Butler Review, the Hutton report and the theories (reliable or otherwise) of various participants, from Tony Blair to Condoleezza Rice.

So Sir John had his work cut out. It may well be that even this gargantuan effort will not answer all of the relevant questions.

The prospect, then, is that we may never understand why we went to war in the ruinous, illegal manner we did. That matters because of the loss of life among civilians and military personnel in the conflict, as well as the injuries they sustained. It is not too strong a conclusion to reach, still without the benefit of any official verdict, to say that the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** can be directly traced back to the disastrous decision to join the US in its invasion of Iraq. Indeed, in a curiously timed interview last weekend, Mr Blair admitted as much himself.

One of the many ironies of the Iraq war - perhaps, given events since, it would be termed the "first Iraq war" - is that the public's disillusionment with intervention makes dealing with Isis and humanitarian disasters in Iraq and Syria more difficult than it need be. Still, the bigger truths about the Iraq war have been known since before it started. It was illegal under international law in that it had no explicit sanction from the UN; it was unnecessary because at that point in 2003 Saddam Hussein had been "caged" through sanctions and no-fly zones; there turned out to be no weapons of mass destruction; there was insufficient planning for the aftermath, which left the vacuum now filled by Isis and civil war. And that we don't need Sir John to tell us.

**Load-Date:** October 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: 'Economic migrants' and refugees are coming to Europe for the same reasons, report says; The Overseas Development Institute said the division is too simplistic to describe people's motives*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HN0-BC31-F021-64J7-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 19, 2015 Saturday 12:56 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 797 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Despite the British Government's efforts to distinguish between "genuine" refugees and economic migrants, a report has found that the motivations for both groups to risk their lives in desperate attempts to reach Europe are often very similar.

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) , a UK-based independent think tank urged European leaders to develop a broader understanding of what causes people to migrate in order to respond to the current crisis.

Its

Why People Move

report said: "The evidence reveals that the asylum-seekers and economic migrants often have similar reasons for choosing to make the dangerous journey to Europe and one person may fall into both of these categories at the same time.

As winter approaches, EU needs to act fast on refugee crisis

"One common and crucial motivation is their search for a secure livelihood. Measures that aim to allow asylum seekers in, while restricting the entry of economic migrants, overlook the reasons why a particular person migrates, and are likely to increase irregular migration still further as migrants seek alternative - and often more dangerous - ways to reach European countries."

That analysis is not shared by the UK Government, which has pledged to resettle 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from United Nations camps bordering the country, rather than those who have already journeyed into Europe.

Of the more than 950,000 asylum seekers and migrants who have arrived on the continent so far this year, just under a half are Syrian according to figures from the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR).

Hundreds of thousands of people fleeing conflict and persecution in countries including Afghanistan, Iraq and Eritrea are excluded from the UK's policy, as is anyone deemed an "economic migrant".

David Cameron emphasised the distinction when he increased the UK's quota in response to public pressure in September.

The UK has seen numerous protests both for and against resettling refugees

"For those economic migrants seeking a better life, we will continue to work to break the link between getting on a boat and getting settlement in Europe, discouraging those who don't have a genuine claim from embarking on these perilous and sometimes lethal journeys," the Prime Minister said.

"For those genuine refugees fleeing civil war, we will act with compassion and continue to provide sanctuary."

The ODI's analysis cast doubt on the idea of a "genuine claim" for taking treacherous journeys across the Mediterranean and Aegean seas.

Its report said that although safety and a better life are often cited as separate motives for migrants, that they usually cross over.

A general view of a shelter for migrants inside a hangar of the former Tempelhof airport in Berlin, Germany

"One person's motives may change in nature and in importance during their journey, suggesting that categorising individuals as 'economic migrants' or 'asylum-seekers' does not reflect the complex and fluid reality of people's experience of migration," it concluded.

Numerous right-wing politicians have claimed that many of those arriving in Europe are attracted by countries' welfare policies and economies but the ODI argued that neither had a significant impact on people's decision to leave their home countries.

"A person's need to leave their home - or flee from it in the face of extreme danger - is likely to be far more important to their decision to migrate than the lure of another country's welfare," it said.

However, the policies and rules of different destination countries, such as Germany's unlimited invitation to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** earlier this year, was found to influence subsequent decisions.

The ODI's report said another factor contributing to the phenomenal rise in irregular migration is the growing "professionalisation" of people smugglers driving migrants through the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

A greater availability of information on the internet and the use of social media was also said to facilitate movement, with a "culture of migration" forming and being reinforced by existing networks.

Despite the onset of winter and tightening of borders in Hungary and other nations making the journey into Europe ever more difficult, the influx of people continues, with arrivals forecast to pass 1 million this year.

The crisis, as well as the unrelated threat of Isis terror attacks, have prompted tighter broder security throughout the European Union but the ODI fears this will only force asylum seekers to resort to increasingly desperate measures.

"There is strong evidence that while tightening border security may change migration routes, and often results in more people making more dangerous journeys, migration policies are unlikely to influence the actual number of people migrating," the report said.

**Load-Date:** December 19, 2015

**End of Document**



[*This five point plan for settling refugees could prevent another tragedy like Aylan Kurdi's death; People will make desperate, dangerous journeys as long as what is behind them is more terrifying that what is in front*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV5-96C1-JCJY-G2V9-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 4, 2015 Friday 1:33 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 755 words

**Byline:** Justin Forsyth

**Body**

The most famous bit of John Donne's well-known poem is the line 'Never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee'. But today the more pertinent, and haunting, section reads: 'Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less'.

Europe is the less today, because of the death of one boy. He was not from our continent, but he is a piece of the main. Aylan Kurdi from Kobane in Syria was washed up on a European shore and our continent is struggling to understand why. Many of us are asking how this could happen here in 2015. We were already reeling from the news that families died on a European road last week, passing their last moments suffocating in the back of a refrigerated truck. This summer we have seen reports of drownings as desperate survivors climb on rescue boats that the Royal Navy told Save the Children are often little more than 'lilos with sides'.

Enough.

It doesn't have to be this way. Our continent can - and must - be better than this. No one policy can deal with the biggest refugee crisis since the Second World War, but we at Save the Children believe that if European ministers agreed a five point plan at their meeting on the 14th September, we could change millions of lives.

READ MORE:Sign our petition to welcome refugees and support quotasWhy we've decided to call it a refugee crisis, not a migrant problemDavid Cameron, is this dead child one of the 'swarm' you fear so much?

So what does this five point plan entail?

First, a regional response. People will make desperate, dangerous journeys as long as what is behind them is more terrifying that what is in front. So we need regional plans for sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East which tackle some of the root causes which make people flee and provide enough aid to help support them with food, shelter and education. Britain is doing its bit here but others are not. Food rations for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have been cut in half in Lebanon and millions of children who fled the war are out of school.

Second, search and rescue efforts must be maintained. Since Europe decided to restart the rescue, thousands of lives have been saved - not least by Britain's own Royal Navy. We must ensure that the capability and mandate of these efforts are equal to the task. The priority remains stopping people from drowning, not border control.

Third, we need safe and legal routes in to Europe for asylum seekers. Traffickers and smugglers thrive when other routes to safety are closed to desperate people. The risks are particularly acute for children, many of whom have already suffered appalling torture, abuse and exploitation, only to be vulnerable to more when they get here.

Fourth, we need proper reception centres to process asylum seekers and separate out economic migrants, at the point of arrival. Children are the most vulnerable in the midst of the current chaos. Services in Italy are overwhelmed and are still getting off the ground in Greece, Serbia and Hungary. A proper system which can adequately feed, house and care for refugees, particularly families and lone children must be urgently scaled up. Funding must be pooled across Europe, without leaving the countries of first arrival like Italy and Greece to shoulder the burden alone.

And finally we need resettlement. There is no way around the fact that European countries, including Britain, must do more to settle refugees here in the UK. Some countries have already stepped up and Germany in particular should be applauded for its humane stance. But we should also recognise that the numbers facing Europe are as nothing compared to the tragedy that has befallen Syria and its neighbouring countries.

Every European country has a part to play. The UK government has done particularly well on aid and search and rescue, and has a proud history when it comes to refugees. But they are falling behind now on resettlement. To date, we have taken just a tiny fraction of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** compared to the numbers given asylum by other European nations, let alone the millions now living in Lebanon, Turkey and others in the region.

This is a moment of decision for our nation and our continent. As we make these momentous choices - to turn our backs or reach out our hands - I hope we remember the devastating image we awoke to on the front of the Independent and do the right thing.

Save The Children's donation page for refugees can be found here

The refugee crisis - in pictures

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: 700 children a day now claiming asylum on European soil; Exclusive: Unicef calls on UK to act as figures reveal more than 190,000 children have sought asylum in Europe this year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H93-DSN1-JCJY-G0P0-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 2, 2015 Monday 11:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 804 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill

**Body**

Up to 700 children a day are now claiming asylum on European soil, as new figures reveal that twice as many child refugees are arriving this year compared to 2014.

Unicef is calling on the UK to act over the crisis as pressure mounts on David Cameron to do more to help the most vulnerable refugees before the arrival of winter.There are calls to prioritise protecting children from violence in advance of the first world humanitarian summit next year.

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Read more

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In Yemen, 573 children have been killed since fighting escalated in March, while child labour has been recorded among ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. There have also been widespread reports of sexual violence against girls.

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Austria: Refugees make fires for warmth at the Slovenia border

"Children have been killed while studying in the classroom, recovering in hospital or sleeping in their beds. Many have been orphaned, forced to become soldiers, kidnapped, raped and traumatised," said Unicef's UK deputy executive director Lily Caprani.

"Protecting children from violence is life-saving, just as much as water, shelter and medicine, yet it isn't prioritised in the same way. This has to change."

Yvette Cooper, the chair of Labour's refugee taskforce, who recently visited the Greek island of Lesbos to witness the 7,000 refugees who arrive on the island on a daily basis, said: "Children are suffering most in this refugee crisis - and it is getting worse not better... too many of them are enduring things that no child should ever have to go through.

Read more

'Airbnb for refugeees' started by German couple spreads around world

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beaten with baseball bats by masked gang in Germany

Four babies among 11 refugees drowned near Greece

Refugees 'being treated like sheep in pens' in Slovenia

Slovenia struggling to cope with refugees in chaotic scenes at border

"For Britain to take just 4,000 refugees this year is not enough... We will look back with shame if we allow more children to die needlessly because of our inaction."

The Unicef figures have also prompted renewed concern over the safety of unaccompanied children arriving in Europe, after a refugee boy was allegedly kidnapped from a refugee centre, abused and killed. Germany's federal commissioner for child sexual abuse warned that there was a risk of sex offenders gaining access to refugee camps.

Johannes-Wilhelm Roerig said there was a "scandalous" lack of control at asylum centres as overburdened authorities struggle to cope with thousands of refugees arriving in Europe daily.

According to Save the Children, more than 13,000 unaccompanied children arrived in Italy alone last year, which at the time was the major route into Europe.

The charity said that it expects that figure to double this year as more unaccompanied children arrive through Greece and the Balkans.

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Yvette Cooper, chair of Labour's refugee taskforce

Gemma Parkin, a spokeswoman for Save the Children, said: "Action is not going in the right direction. Unaccompanied children remain the most vulnerable, at risk of the gravest form of exploitation and trafficking.

"Save the Children is calling for the UK government to offer to relocate up to 3,000 unaccompanied children, in order to do our fair share."

There are also concerns among aid workers in the Balkans that winter weather and prolonged periods outside will lead to fatalities among young children travelling across Europe, not just on the shores of Greek islands.

Gorana Dojcinovic, a Unicef co-ordinator in Croatia, said that the charity was already concerned at the number of cases of nappy rash and diarrhoea among young children.

**Load-Date:** November 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*My cousin drowned on a migrant boat - would he have been saved if a photo of him had gone viral?; It shouldn't take a viral image to make us care about other people*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GTH-J1Y1-JCJY-G0N0-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

August 31, 2015 Monday 2:25 PM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENT

**Length:** 798 words

**Byline:** Zena Agha

**Body**

Abdul Halim Attar, a Palestinian-Syrian refugee from Yarmouk, has become the latest viral sensation to hit the Internet. A single father of two, he was photographed with his daughter slung over his shoulder, selling biros in the streets of Beirut. An activist found him, set up a crowdfunding page for him, and has now raised over $150,000. On the face of it, such outpourings of compassion demonstrate the collective power of the Internet - of humans helping each other out.

.TopArticleWidget.twitter { margin-right: 14px; }

But why does it take a moving photo for us to care enough about migrants to help them? Stories like Abdul's are not uncommon. His plight is echoed in millions of people across the region and across the world. In Lebanon alone, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** make up 1.2 million of a roughly 4.5 million population. Indeed Lebanon has more refugees per capita than any other nation in the world (hear that, Europe?).

READ MORERefugee pictured selling pens in Beirut says he'll help others with money raisedComment: What Anne Frank can teach us about the migrant crisis

Lebanon has no formal refugee camps, and beggars and street children are a common phenomenon. In Jordan, the Zaatari refugee camp houses over 80,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** with the camp rapidly becoming a permanent settlement. In fact, one in five Syrians are now refugees, according to the UN. All these numbers represent individual lives - lives we will never hear of nor see. What about those displaced people who are systematically ignored, marginalized and unheard?

Finally found him =) Been a lot of work, but it was worth it! Now lets help them! [*https://t.co/Fcg59KTbbhpic.twitter.com/SjIDmytCeGGissur*](https://t.co/Fcg59KTbbhpic.twitter.com/SjIDmytCeGGissur) Simonarson CN (@GissiSim) August 27, 2015

Last Friday, 71 decomposing bodies were found in a lorry on an Austrian motorway - including that of a baby girl.  People keep drowning in the Mediterranean, while those "fortunate" enough to arrive in Italy or Greece are treated with contempt and violence. My Palestinian-Syrian cousin died on a migrant boat from Turkey to Greece last year. They are not humanised and their deaths are not remembered. But would they be if we could just have a photo of them, mid-plight?

My point is not to detract from Abdul's predicament, but rather to emphasise that in many cases, refugees face dire conditions and are almost universally ignored. The sensationalism of social media is such that charity now manifests itself in neatly packaged bitesize narratives with the true context often being sidelined. These sorts of campaigns feed into the "warm glow" theory of charity - whereby people's compassion becomes a way for them to feel better about themselves. Indeed I would go so far as to say they actually redirect valuable resources away from charities that could have a more effective impact. Why is it up to them to be the financial arbiters?

Stranded migrants spend night on rocks

The inevitable and uncomfortable question we must ask ourselves is this: does every refugee need their own crowdfunding campaign in order to warrant our sympathy and, by extension, our help? Abdul, on an individual level, is a fellow human in a tragic situation. When his fate is multiplied by a million, refugees become mere numbers lacking both context and compassion. So dehumanized that heads of state can refer to them as a "swarm". In other words, as far as the public psyche is concerned, "migrants" will continue to be undesirable and unwanted unless they have proved themselves worthy of help through emotive  images and reductive narratives.

It is entirely random that Abdul and his family have, literally overnight, been given a shot at a normal life. It left me wondering: what would have happened if this man had been selling pens on a different street, out of sight of the photographer? Odds are he would still be invisible to the world, punished by its politics. What about those without activists to share their story on Twitter? Those who will continue to die in the Mediterranean, in detention centers, in the Channel Tunnel, in trucks and boats and camps?

It should not take a viral image to make us care. It should not take a viral image to make us understand the travesty of the civil war in Syria nor the injustice of the occupation of Palestine. And fundamentally, it should not take a viral image to make us understand the hypocrisy of our generosity: there are a million other Abduls walking the streets from Calais to Beirut and they will constantly be overlooked and neglected so long as we require verification of their hardship. I am glad Abdul and his two children have been helped, but viral images can only go so far. Put simply, until the international system affords the other millions of refugees half the humanity, they will continue to sell biros in the streets.

**Load-Date:** August 31, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Redistribution plan will be finalised by next meeting, say EU ministers; Officials have rejected demands to implement binding relocation quotas*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXJ-9KB1-F021-63W5-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 15, 2015 Tuesday 1:16 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 808 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz, Tony Paterson

**Body**

European Union interior ministers failed to agree last night on how to redistribute 120,000 refugees from Italy, Greece and Hungary to other EU countries.

Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn, who chaired the meeting, said it was "premature for the Council to take a decision today".

"Even though we are in urgent circumstances, we have to follow procedures," he said.

Earlier, the German Interior Minister, Thomas de Maiziere, said EU nations had "agreed in principle" to share refugees between different countries, but more work would be done at the next interior ministers' meeting on 8 October.

The news came after Germany reimposed border checks in the wake of an influx of refugees, raising questions about the viability of the EU's passport-free Schengen zone. Britain, which has an opt-out from the relocation proposals, will not be taking part, Home Secretary Theresa May confirmed in Brussels. She said Britain would instead resettle 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over five years from camps in countries like Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Mrs May said this would ensure that the most vulnerable would come to the UK. "We need to urgently set up registration centres so that people are properly fingerprinted and registered when they arrive in Europe," she said.

Despite pleas last week from European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker for binding relocations, the ministers were unable to agree mandatory quotas and or indicate which countries would be involved. The ministers nonetheless committed to the scheme to relocate refugees away from Greece, Italy and Hungary, the three countries under the most strain as the main EU entry points for most.

Read more: Germany to 'reintroduce border controls' with AustriaGiving cash - not clothes - is the 'most effective way to help'Football fans wave banner reading 'Refugees Not Welcome'

The ministers agreed the relocation measures would be finalised by their next ministerial meeting, in Luxembourg on 8 October. If no political decision on the 120,000 is reached, then an EU summit may be convened before the end of the month.

Other measures under consideration are large internment camps for refugees in Italy and Greece, to temporarily accommodate people while they are identified, registered, and finger-printed.

In graphics: Refugees in the EU

"Their asylum claims are to be processed quickly and those who fail are to be deported promptly," one ministerial document said. They are similarly looking at building camps at the popular refugee departure points outside the EU, where failed asylum-seekers could be sent back to. Other measures being debated include biometric data in the passports of non-EU citizens - stored when they apply for a visa - to make their deportation easier.

These measure would tie in with demands made by the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, for EU host countries to set up big reception centres, as it warned that thousands of refugees could be left in "legal limbo" if EU members adopt different border rules. The ministers were meeting after Germany restored border controls on Sunday. The European Commission acknowledged that Berlin's move was in "prima facie" accordance with Schengen rules on crisis situations, but it had a swift domino effect across Europe.

German police dispatched to the borders said the measures were proving ineffective. Officers said that although they had set up roadblocks they were unable to limit the influx. A border policeman on the ground told Der Spiegel: "The border is just as porous as it was before. If we shut it we would have a Hungarian situation here."

Read more: Syrian refugee says he cannot forgive camerawomanThousands all over Europe show support at pro-immigration ralliesAmir Khan to take refugee aid convoy to Greece

Police said they had been told to make sure war refugees from Syria were allowed in while others from so-called safe counties were not. One officer said: "They all claim to be Syrian even if they are quite obviously black Africans."

The officer said that even if they were able to effectively identify sham war refugees, police simply did not have the manpower to turn them back. ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Munich also told The Independent last week: "Many people are pretending to be Syrian. Faking the documents is easy."

Munich received more than 19,000 refugees last weekend alone. The unprecedented influx prompted Ms Merkel's government to take action.

Austria has followed suit by deploying army units on its borders with Hungary in another attempt to put the brakes on the influx. The Czech Republic and Slovakia said they planned to do the same. Poland said it was also considering border controls. Officials said the influx had been expected to peak because of Hungary's plans to arrest migrants caught crossing its borders illegally from today.

Click here to sign The Independent's Change.org petition

**Load-Date:** September 15, 2015

**End of Document**



[*So David Cameron, is this dead Syrian child one of the 'swarm' of migrants you fear so much?; Those who have decided not to care will not be moved - but this should be moment when Britain finally finds its compassion*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV0-CM61-F021-60WR-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 2, 2015 Wednesday 7:44 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 572 words

**Byline:** Yasmin Alibhai Brown

**Body**

He looks asleep, far away in dreamland, as if he dropped off after a long day of play and fun, of tricks and naughtiness. His trainers are still on his feet. Did he pester mum and dad until they bought them? His red T-shirt and trousers have rolled up to reveal his tummy. I want to touch his soft, plump tummy, to hold him, wake him gently and dry him off.

But the boy is dead. He drowned in the foaming, blue sea, just off Bodrum in Turkey, a tourist destination for Europeans seeking sun and fun. The waves delivered him to the beach, gently it seems, so intact is the little body.

READ MORE:WILL THESE PICTURES WAKE EUROPE UP?

If this lifeless toddler was a European, the reaction across the continent would be shock and sorrow. But he is a Syrian, a pest, part of the "swarm" of refugees that David Cameron wants to keep out of Britain; a "cockroach"  to Katie Hopkins, the loutish commentator.

Our Government can only talk in numbers, so too most of the media, including the BBC. Until yesterday, when Yvette Cooper finally acknowledged the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***, leading Labour figures were cowardly too, staying silent. Social psychopathy is the result. Thousands perish as they try to get into Europe; asylum-seeking women miscarry on the streets;  children are starving and traumatised; young men look trapped and emasculated. Those who have decided not to care will not be moved. (Millions do care and do what little they can, but this is a humanitarian disaster which requires a pan-European response).

Maybe this is the moment, the image which breaks through the emotional and political fortresses. Remember that little naked, burning girl in the Vietnam war running away from bomb attacks?  That single picture turned American public opinion against that terrible war. Or the first photographs of young Malala Yousafzai after she was shot on a school bus? Until then most Pakistanis were in denial about the Taliban in their country. After the shooting they had nowhere to hide.

Look at the picture of the washed up toddler if you can bear to. He is a little person, an innocent, who died before he could grow.  Think of the chances his parents took and why they felt they had no other choice. How frightened they must have been when they got on to the packed, unsafe boat. Did they drown too? They might have seen their child sink. Imagine that. If they survived, they must wish they hadn't.  We don't know their names. Maybe we never will. But this is our child now, whoever we are. Even those who support hardline anti-immigration policies, must, I think, feel pity and some urge to help.

Our PM and Home Secretary must speak out with some compassion now and take in more refugees. The boy on the beach will either become a symbol of European brutality or humanity. But he will never be erased from history and collective memory.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

We're urging people to:

● Show your friends you support the UK taking in its fair share of refugees by signing a petition urging the Government to take action at change.org/refugeeswelcome

● Join our social media campaign - #refugeeswelcome - to prove that those in real need of a safe haven will receive a compassionate welcome from many of us here

● Share this link so your friends know to do the same

**Load-Date:** September 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Lebanon is doing its bit to help its neighbour Syria; Refugees have swelled the population by more than a third. It urgently needs help if it is to sustain a generation's hopes*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GYM-9NM1-F021-63DF-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 19, 2015 Saturday 9:00 PM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENTATORS

**Length:** 754 words

**Byline:** Elias Bou Saab

**Body**

Enrolment for the new school term began on Monday in Lebanon. But this is no ordinary school term. This is the start of a an academic year so different from any other that I want the international community to wake up to the peril we face. By the end of this year the refugee population in our schools could exceed Lebanon's state school numbers.

Last year, we managed to offer school places to 105,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. We took them off the streets where they were prey to child traffickers and terrorist propaganda. We did so with a unique double-shift system that allows pupils to study in French and English in the first half of the now extended school day and Syrian refugee students to study in Arabic in the second half.

This year we want to do better. We now have 400,000 school-age ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** on the streets of our country, and we wanted to offer at least 200,000 places in formal school. We have opened up 100 more schools as double-shift schools. But while we have been able to offer 140,000 places, we are still 60,000 places short of our planned intake.

We simply don't have the money to hire the teachers we need. Yet educating a child under the double-shift system is so economical and cost-effective that we can teach each pupil for about $500 - $600 a year.

But despite our pleas to aid agencies around the world, thousands who could be at school will be left on the streets. The much needed funds have yet to materialise. We have support from the UN agencies, including Unicef, UNHCR, and the World Bank. And governments such as the UK, Germany, the European Union, Norway and the United States have provided much needed support. But we need a broader-based international coalition to support education on a multi-year basis, so we can plan and deliver what is needed.

READ MORE: Hungary accuses Croatia of 'violating international law'Croatian PM: 'We cannot accommodate these people any longer'Hungary opens fire on refugees with tear gasCroatia has closed seven of eight border crossings with Serbia

And if we can't raise the numbers to 200,000 places this year, our plans to meet the longer term goal - to offer schooling to what could eventually be 500,000 refugee children - will be frustrated. If we are able to provide these spaces, young people can learn the valuable skills needed to return home, rebuild their countries and future.

And this is the tragic irony: usually in an emergency the facilities cannot be found, but in Lebanon, the schools are there, and the teachers ready to teach. Certainly we need more help to advertise the offer of places to the Syrian families in Lebanon, but the real gap keeping us from educating more is the absence of money to fund them.

In pictures: Deadly sandstorm hits Middle East

Lebanon is being asked to do what no other country has to face - to take in a refugee population soon to equal one-third of our resident population.

I doubt if any country in the world could cope. But amid all the pressures we daily confront, we have offered to help the refugees. The question I ask leaders of the international community: why will you not help us to do more?

It is in the best interest of the entire international community that this initiative is a success. We all want Syrians to be able to return home to a peaceful Syria. Supporting the education of these children helps families to remain in the region and have hope that they will soon return and no longer need to continue dangerous journeys to Europe and beyond.

Under the leadership of Gordon Brown, the UN Special Envoy for Global Education, a new plan covering Lebanon, Turkey, and Jordan has been drawn up, and he is now trying to raise the vitally needed additional money of nearly $250m from new donors and traditional givers.

But now is the most testing time. We can either deliver the places or have to live forever with a lost generation denied schooling, denied security and worst of all denied hope, on the streets with all the consequences for disconnect and even the stability of our country.

Families I meet do not want to embark on dangerous voyages to Europe. That is not their first choice. They want to ensure their children have hope for the future and they want to be well-placed nearby for their eventual return to Syria. But the people of Lebanon cannot help them without proper funding from the international community.

I urge the world to come to the aid of our troubled country before it's too late.

Elias Bou Saab is Lebanon's Minister of Education

**Load-Date:** September 19, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syrian refugees in Germany find country's mosques too conservative; 'Everything about this mosque made me feel uneasy', says migrantHani Salam after being ordered to grow a beard by his new imam in Cologne*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M1X-1M01-F021-60GX-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 28, 2016 Friday 7:20 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 1397 words

**Byline:** Joseph Nasr

**Body**

Hani Salam escaped civil war in Syria and survived the journey from Egypt to Europe. But when he saw men with bushy long beards at a mosque near his current home in Cologne last November, he was worried.

The men's appearance reminded him of Jaish al-Islam, the Islamist rebels who took over his hometown near Damascus, said Salam, 36, who wears a moustache but no beard. One of them told Salam that "good Muslims grow beards, not moustaches," he recalled - a centuries-old idea that he dismisses.

"Everything about this mosque made me feel uneasy," he said.

Syrians in Germany say many of the country's Arab mosques are more conservative than those at home.

Over two months, a dozen Syrians in six places of worship in three cities told Reuters they were uncomfortable with very conservative messages in Arabic-speaking mosques. People have criticised the way the newcomers dress and practise their religion, they said. Some insisted the Koran be interpreted word-for-word.

Muslims bow their headsduring Friday prayers at the Turkish Kuba Camii mosque(Wolfgang Rattay/Reuters)

It is a highly contentious issue in a country where Europe's migrant influx is already having deep political and social consequences. In Germany this year Alternative for Germany, a populist party that says Islam is incompatible with the German constitution, has gained ground. There have been several attacks by militant Muslims. Syrians and others say the mosque problem is adding to mistrust.

In Germany, other different faiths are traditionally supported by the state. But most of the country's four million Muslims originally came from Turkey and attend Turkish-speaking mosques which are partly funded by Ankara.

Last year around 890,000 asylum-seekers, more than 70 percent of them Muslims, entered the country. Around a third came from Syria. Many of them do not want to go to Turkish mosques because they do not understand the sermons. They prefer to worship where people speak Arabic.

Read more

Man 'beaten to death after urinating near church' in Germany

German police officer dies after being shot by far-right extremist

Germany's birthrate hits 33-year high after 900,000 refugees arrive

Syrian terror suspect Jaber al Bakr found dead in his cell in Germany

Germany pushes to ban petrol-fuelled cars within next 20 years

Yet in these mosques, other problems arise. They are often short of funds, or else supported by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. Some back ultra-conservative or highly literal interpretations of Islam, such as Wahhabism or Salafism.

"Unfortunately it is true that a large majority of Arabic-speaking mosques are more conservative than Turkish mosques," said Professor Mouhannad Khorchide, who heads the Centre for Islamic Theology at Muenster University. That poses problems for integrating those who are less conservative.

"How can one absorb these people if they are interested in their religion?" said Khorchide. "When there is a shortage of offers the Salafists try to fill the gap."

In Cologne, Salam said that 75 Syrians live in the same hotel as his family. Of them, only one veiled woman prays at the nearest Arabic mosque.

"One time when I was there, a Salafist asked a young Arab man to leave because he was wearing shorts," he added. "At the Turkish mosque no one cares what you're wearing."

In a windowless ground floor room inside the Arabic mosque one Friday in August, some 200 men, including about two dozen with bushy beards and trimmed moustaches typical of ultra-Orthodox Muslims, crowded for prayers.

The Turkish Kuba Camii mosque near a hotel housing refugees in Cologne (Wolfgang Rattay/Reuters)

Afterwards, a worshipper scolded three Lebanese men for saluting him when he entered the mosque. They had interrupted the sermon, which he said was forbidden. "Your Friday is gone!" he told them, lifting his hands toward his face and pressing his fingers together to emphasise that their actions had made their prayers void.

The imam who led the prayers said the community is not political or violent. Asked about the Syrians who felt uncomfortable at mosques like his, he said: "It's an honour to be called a Salafist. We are only interested in giving members of our community pure Islamic teachings."

Even though Salam can't understand the sermons in Turkish, he said he has started going to a Turkish mosque instead.

A 2008 survey of Muslims and Christians in Europe by the state-funded WZB Berlin Social Science Centre found fundamentalist attitudes were less prevalent among German Muslims than elsewhere in Europe, but still quite widespread: For example, nearly half the Muslims it surveyed in Germany felt religious law to be more important than secular law.

Germany's domestic intelligence agency has recorded more than 320 attempts by Salafist Muslims to contact refugees last year, often by offering food, clothes, free copies of the Koran and help with German to asylum seekers living in shelters.

Earlier this month, a Syrian committed suicide in prison after he was arrested on suspicion of planning to bomb an airport. His brother and friends in Germany have said he was "brainwashed" by ultra-conservative imams in Berlin.

The intelligence agency has advised local authorities against housing asylum-seekers near Salafist or Wahhabi mosques.

"We know of at least 90 Islamist mosques where activities aimed at refugees are taking place. These mosques are largely Arab-dominated and influenced by Salafism," said Hans-Georg Maassen, head of the agency.

At the al-Nur mosque in Berlin, which is run by Wahhabis, Syrian Abed al-Hafian said he was alarmed by a strict interpretation of the Koran and Hadith, a collection of sayings of the prophet. He recalled a sentence from Hadith that the preacher quoted on his first Friday: 'Every novelty (in religion) is innovation, and every innovation is misguidance, and every misguidance leads to the hellfire.'

"I had never heard that sentence in Syria," said the 42-year-old father of three, who arrived in 2014. "The message is clear and is directed at us Muslims: 'Don't you dare interpret your religion. Take the Koran word for word.' It's a problem."

He said he decided to take what he wants from the sermons and "ignore the rest."

Even though officials accept that not all Salafists are violent, some Syrians worry that if they go to Arabic-speaking mosques, they may be seen as radicals.

In Hamburg, Syrian Kurd Abu Mohammad said he has avoided going to a mosque since he arrived in Germany two years ago because his parents, who came here a decade ago, told him it could only bring trouble.

"The government is obviously monitoring Salafists," said the 32-year-old father of six, using a nickname because he said he fears for his safety and that of relatives still living in Damascus.

"I have a two-year visa and the last thing I want is trouble."

The problem may be rooted in the schisms in Islam, but it is made worse by the structure of religious funding in Germany. Since the start of the 20th century Germany has had a system of collecting taxes for worship, which are then paid out to religious groups like Catholics, Protestants and Jews.

Muslims cannot benefit from this, because the four main organisations that represent Muslims in Germany can't agree to merge into one religious body, a requirement to receive taxes.

"Most communities can't even afford a proper mosque ... And most can't pay a well-educated imam to serve their community," said Daniel Abdin, co-chairman of the Shura Council in Hamburg, an umbrella organisation for the city's Muslim community.

"So you end up with a situation where people with little or no knowledge of modern theology are serving as imams."

Five years ago, the government set up five Islamic theology centres to train imams and Islamic educators with a 20-million-euro ($22 million) grant from the Education Ministry. The strategy has been partly successful: Islamic studies are taught to Muslim pupils in many schools.

But few of the more than 1,800 students who have graduated from the theology centres have gone on to serve as local imams.

Nonetheless, Khorchide and other Islam experts are hopeful that the influx of Muslim asylum-seekers with an open approach to religion is an opportunity to promote a more "moderate" Islam in the Arabic-speaking mosques.

In Hamburg, Abu Mohammad says he has stopped attending mosque at all.

"I pray at home," he said. "I'm sure Allah listens."

Reuters

**Load-Date:** October 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*RAF airstrike killed two British Isis fighters in Syria, David Cameron reveals; PM also reveals police have foiled six terrorist attacks against Britain in the last 12 months*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW1-NV81-JCJY-G486-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 7, 2015 Monday 6:13 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 581 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

Two British citizens fighting for Isis in Syria were killed by RAF airstrikes last month, David Cameron has revealed.

The Government has not received Parliamentary backing for intervention in Syria but the Prime Minister told MPs that the decision to act was "entirely lawful". "We took this action because there was no alternative," he said. "We were exercising Britain's inherent right in self defence."

He also disclosed that the police and security services have foiled at least six terrorist attacks against Britain over the last 12 months as he delivered a statement to the House of Commons on Britain's response to the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis*** and efforts to tackle the growing threat of Isis.

The risk to Britain from Islamist extremist violence is "more acute today than ever before," Mr Cameron said, as he defended the decision to approve an RAF drone strikes in Raqqa, that killed a total of three Isis fighters, two of whom were British, on August 21.

The two British nationals were named as Junaid Hussain and Reyaad Khan. They were based in Syria and were "actively recruiting Isil sympathisers," Mr Cameron said, adding there was "clear evidence" that they were planning to carry out "barbaric attacks" against the West, including direct terrorist plots on high profile commemorations in Britain this summer.

Mr Cameron said he had acted without the backing of Parliament because of the severe threat the three men posed to Britain's national interest.

"We took this action because there was no alternative," he told MPs. In this area, there is no government we can work with.

"We have no military on the ground to detain those preparing plots and there was nothing to suggest that Reyaad Khan would ever leave Syria or desist from his desire to murder us at home.

"So we had no way of preventing his planned attacks on our country without taking direct action."

Mr Cameron added: "The Attorney General was consulted and was clear there would be a clear legal basis for action in international law. We were exercising the UK's inherent right to self-defence.

"There was clear evidence of the individuals in question planning and directing armed attacks against the UK. These were part of a series of actual and foiled attempts to attack the UK and our allies."

However the decision to act without the backing of Parliament and the Government's legal justification that it was acting in self defence was criticised by the former Attorney General Dominic Grieve, who described it as a "very draconian thing to do". "I strongly suspect it will lead to a legal challenge," he told BBC Radio 4.

He said he expected a legal challenge to be made to the "potential violation of somebody's right to life".

The SNP also attacked the decision, with the party's defence spokesperson Brendan O'Hara claiming that the involvement of British personnel in airstrikes without the the approval of Parliament "flouts the democratic decision of the House of Commons".

Revealing the extent of the threat posed to Britain from the terrorist group, Mr Cameron said: "I can tell the House that our police and security services have stopped at least six different attempts to attack the UK in the last 12 months alone.

"The threat picture facing Britain in terms of Islamist extremist violence is more acute today than ever before."

Downing Street said Mr Cameron was on a regional visit in the UK to talk about the Government's apprenticeships programme on the day of the RAF airstrike in Raqqa.

Fall of Ramadi

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Retired Bristol University professor mauled to death by stray dogs in Greece; 62-year-old tourist last seen walking back from visit to Msimvria archaeological site near Petrota Beach*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PJR-HG01-JCJY-G21J-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 25, 2017 Monday 9:36 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS; Version:1

**Length:** 316 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

A retired Bristol University academic is believed to have been mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs in Greece.

The 62-year-old tourist, named locally as Celia Hollingworth, was reported missing after walking back to her accommodation in Maroneia in the northern part of the country.

She had been visiting the nearby Mesimvria archaeological site, near Petrota Beach.

Reports in Greece suggested she tried to contact her relatives in London after being attacked by the pack of wild animals, but lost signal on her phone.

Her mother and brother called local authorities to ask them to locate her, according to ERT Television.

She was last seen by swimmers at 4.30pm on Thursday. Her body was later discovered by police and firefighers at 10.45am on Saturday.

A senior police officer with knowledge of the investigation told

The Times

: "It was a tragic sight.

"Her body was found shredded to pieces, some of it devoured. Even experienced forensics crews were shocked when they faced the harrowing sight."

Her family are believed to be travelling to Greece.

Read more

19-year-old British watersports instructor dies in sea off Greece

8,000 British holidaymakers on Kos as earthquake strikes

Greece legalises marijuana for medical purposes

EU plan to relocate 160,000 refugees from Italy and Greece failing

Local reports suggested Ms Hollingworth was a former professor at Oxford University, but the university said they were unable to find a record of anyone with her name having worked as a professor at the university.

She had raised money for Greek charities helping ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and was an active human rights campaigner,

according to

The

Telegraph

.

Authorities in the UK did not dispute the woman's identity.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We are in contact with Greek Police in relation to a British woman missing in northern Greece since Thursday.

"We are also providing consular assistance to her family."

**Load-Date:** September 25, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Lebanon now faces Isis and Nusra incursions - and an influx of refugees; Arab compatriots show little sympathy for Syrian families fleeing violence*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D9H-9S31-F072-41JY-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

October 7, 2014 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 24

**Length:** 789 words

**Byline:** ROBERT FISK IN BEIRUT

**Body**

The shooting went on for hours, heard even in the centre of ancient Baalbek as Hezbollah and the Jabhat al-Nusra/Isis insurgents from Syria fought it out on the ridgeline above the Roman city.

That is all the people of Baalbek could say yesterday after Hezbollah announced - after rather a long time - that the jihadis had been sent packing back up towards Syrian Qalamoun. But it was another shock to the body politic of Lebanon.

We've been here before, of course, in similar battles in July, and then in the brief capture of Ersa, north of Baalbek, in August when Isis managed for a few forbidding hours to take over the Sunni town and seize almost 24 Lebanese soldiers, two of whom have since suffered the now all-too-familiar and awesome punishment of decapitation.

But does this mean that Isis has leached over the border and put its black-and-white flags into the soil of Lebanon?

The details of the latest raid are frustratingly difficult to ascertain. First reports spoke of "hundreds" of Nusra fighters with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades storming at least 10 almost inaccessible Hezbollah outposts close to the Syrian border, strong points placed there for the very purpose of preventing the jihadis from crossing into Lebanon and threatening the Hezbollah supply route through Baalbek to the south of he country where, of course, another enemy - Israel - might await the Iranian-armed and financed movement. Casualty figures moved uncertainly between 14 jihadis and three Hezbollah dead, and 16 jihadis with eight Hezbollah dead. But the figures, as usual, are less important than the implications.

As the sub-head of one recent article in the Lebanese Christian press put it rather well, it seems that from now on the destiny of Lebanon will be "in the hands of Nusra and the 'Islamic State' [as Isis calls itself], which each day wickedly spreads its venom deeper into Lebanese territory". This may be taking things a little too far. When Hezbollah sent thousands of its fighters across the Syrian border to help President Bashar al-Assad's army fight its jihadi enemies, it could hardly be surprised if those same enemies decided to strike back across the frontier in the other direction. Each little jihadi "victory", however, gives heart to their coterie of supporters in the Lebanese Sunni community, especially in Tripoli where a few Isis posters have been seen.

There have been Isis tweets, too, directed at the Lebanese state, castigating its army's behaviour. Lebanon's military is a working institution and its multi-ethnic ranks are anathema to the Sunni fighters loyal to Mosul's odd new "caliph", Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Arsal's much-troubled Sunni population is host to a mass of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and fears it may permanently fall under Isis's yoke - as if, in the words of the town's municipality President, Ali Hujeiri, Isis wants to invite Baghdadi to Lebanon.

No one in the country forgets that the original title of this morbid new "state" entity was the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant - and that the Levant area includes Lebanon as well as Syria. Inevitably, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - now a third of Lebanon's population - have found themselves victims of almost racist threats from their Arab compatriots in the country. There are nightly incidents of intimidation against them in Beirut where wall posters have appeared at dusk, ordering Syrian men and their families to leave within 12 hours the cheap lodgings in which they are crowded. The Lebanese army has done little about this - just as it failed to intervene in the Hezbollah-jihadi fighting at the weekend. Hezbollah's Syrian government allies have meanwhile been drawing eerie comparisons between its army's present struggle against "Wahabi-Zionist enemies" with foreign weapons - "wahabi" being a code word for Saudi Arabia - and its 6 October 1973 battles with Israel, which was also armed with foreign weapons.

Syrian state television showed a collage of its soldiers fighting Israel on the Golan Heights 41 years ago and its present-day troops fighting opponents of President Assad inside Syria. What those old soldiers who briefly captured Observatory Ridge - but who are now in their sixties or seventies - think of the current tragedy in their country is anyone's guess, if those soldiers are still alive.

Syrian television has even taken to quoting Iraqi television, applauding the death of three Isis officers supposedly killed by Iraqi government troops in a battle north-east of Baquba. Under President Assad's father, Hafez, a state of near-open hostility existed between Syria and Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The Baath party existed in both countries in mutual suspicion and would never dream of praising their opponents. Those were the days.

**Load-Date:** October 6, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Lebanon faces Isis and Nusra incursions - and an influx of refugees; Arab compatriots show little sympathy for Syrian families fleeing violence*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D9J-KMV1-F021-64FW-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 7, 2014 Tuesday 8:57 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 794 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

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The Baath party existed in both countries in mutual suspicion and would never dream of praising their opponents. Those were the days.

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2014

**End of Document**



[*US to honour Australia refugee deal that Donald Trump called 'dumb'; The deal led to an acrimonious phone call between the US President and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NCF-JDR1-F021-631N-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 22, 2017 Saturday 9:36 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS; Version:1

**Length:** 337 words

**Byline:** Lucy Pasha-Robinson

**Body**

The US has confirmed it will honour a refugee deal with Australia to resettle 1,250 asylum seekers that President Donald Trump previously described as "dumb."

Vice President Mike Pence said the deal would be subject to vetting and that recognising it "doesn't mean that we admire the agreement".

"We will honour this agreement out of respect to this enormously important alliance," he told a joint news conference with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Read more

Trump 'bumps Britain down the queue in favour of EU trade deal'

Donald Trump says 'it's OK with me' if US charges Julian Assange

Barack Obama to make his first public speech since leaving White House

Australia refuses entry to 500 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** 'on security grounds'

Under the deal, agreed with former President Barack Obama last year, the US would resettle refugees held in offshore processing camps on South Pacific islands in Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

In return, Australia agreed to resettle refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

The White House has already said it would apply "extreme vetting" to those asylum seekers. However, refugee charities said they were concerned the measures would mean few asylum seekers would actually be resettled.

"What still isn't clear is how many people will have this opportunity, and that clarity must be provided," said Graham Thom, refugeecoordinator at Amnesty InternationalAustralia.

Australia is one of Washington's staunchest allies and has sent troops to fight alongside the US military in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

However the relationship was put in jeopardy when Mr Trump lambasted Mr Turnbull over the arrangement, labelling it a "dumb" deal.

Details of an acrimonious phone call between the pair soon after the real estate mogul took office made headlines around the world, with reports Mr Trump had called it the "worst call by far" that day.

Mr Turnbull acknowledged US reluctance, but said Mr Trump's commitment "speaks volumes" and said the call ended courteously.

Additional reporting by Reuters.

**Load-Date:** April 22, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Woman who fled Isis reduced to tears by refugee camp fire in heartbreaking video; Two Syrian children died and several people were admitted to hospital with severe burns after huge fires ripped through two informal refugee settlements in Lebanon last week*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P0H-RGJ1-JCJY-G04G-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 11, 2017 Tuesday 2:03 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST; Version:1

**Length:** 801 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

Lebanon's fertile Bekaa Valley is beautiful. In the July sun, gold wheat fields reflect the light and the sky is blue and clear over the mountains which form the border with Syria.

The Bekaa's lush landscape is usually at odds with the poverty found there: 39 per cent of Lebanon's registered 1.1 million refugees are living in the 2,564 informal settlements dotted across the Bekaa, according to UN data.

This week, however, blackened fields where two refugee settlements once stood are an unmistakable reminder of the bleak situation ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in this part of the country face.

The fire is thought to have been started by someone using a gas canister, commonly used in the camp for cooking, inside a tent(WorldVision)

In the space of just four days, huge fires ripped through two different camps, killing two children and sending around a dozen more people to hospital with severe burns.

SouriyaNasser al Ahmad, 39, lives in one of the settlements affected just outside the town of Qom Elias, where it is thought the blaze was started by someone using a gas canister to cook in one of the camp's 94 tents.

Her memory of what happened on Sunday afternoon isn't clear because everything happened so quickly, but she recalls scooping up her younger children and running for the camp's only entrance as towers of black smoke rose into the air.

"It was terrifying," she told

The Independent

.

While cooking fires are common in the haphazardly built settlements in which many Syrians in Lebanon are forced to live, they are normally quickly contained, affecting a tent or two before residents manage to put them out.

Read more

Airbnb is letting people in Milan offer their homes to refugees

Refugee toddlers and babies forced to sleep rough in northern France

Thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** returning to war-torn country

World Refugee Day passed almost unnoticed this week

Thanks to the searing 40 degree summer heat wave and wheat crop surrounding the camp, however, it spread very quickly. Several residents said that the fire extinguishers they used to try to put it out had expired and didn't work properly.

Ninety-one of the camp's 94 homes were completely destroyed, leaving around 700 homeless. Almost everyone's identification papers and the few souvenirs and trinkets from home that survived the dangerous journey across the border were destroyed.

"We've never seen anything as severe as this. Usually fires are under control much quicker," said Antoine Ghazaly, the UN Refugee Agency's child protection officer for the region.

Identification papers and the few trinkets from home that survived the dangerous journey across the border were also destroyed(WorldVision)

Souriya-named for her country, an old fashioned moniker which Syrians do not often give their babies these days -came to Lebanon with her husband Hamoud and their children in 2013. Natives of Raqqa, when Isis began to gain a foothold in the area they decided to get out while they still could.

Now they have a family of six. Hamoud does odd jobs around the camp for cash in accordance with the strict rules set for Syrian work permits, but the family are desperately poor. He often suffers from migraines which leave him too unwell to work.

The usual image associated with refugees is one of camps filled with row upon row of white tents -but after taking in so many Palestinians after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, and fearful of encouraging people to stay, the Lebanese authorities havenot set up official government-runcamps for those displaced by Syria's civil war, complicating the work of aid organisations.

As a result, Syrian families often make their own homes out of the materials to hand -with limited UN and NGO assistance -or move into derelict or abandoned buildings, often in already overcrowded Palestinian areas.

Thanks to a summer heat wave and wheat fields surrounding the camp, the fire was able to spread quickly(WorldVision)

One hope that kept Souriya going for the last few months was the promise of a new home her father was helping build for the family: a four by four metre semi-permanent house made from timberframe, breezeblocks and tarpaulin, which would have its own latrine.

Like everything else at Qob Elias camp, it went up in flames.

While rebuilding work has already begun in earnest -every family reconstructing their own shelter with help from the local Lebanese community -it does not mitigate the sense of loss for many. Souriya'sfamily's case is complicated by the fact they were missing the right permits and papers in the first place.

Talking about the house she had dreamed about, Souriya began to cry. "I don't understand," she said, her children sitting around her. "They're telling me I'm not able to have my own tent [or the new one her father was building]. It makes my life so complicated."

**Load-Date:** July 11, 2017

**End of Document**



[*i Editor's Letter: A letter about Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5B9P-DP21-J9YR-G0HM-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 18, 2014 Saturday 12:00 AM GMT

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**Section:** I

**Length:** 298 words

**Byline:** Oliver Duff

**Body**

We rarely publish open letters. There are many causes worthy of the space, but the worst of these round-robins can be terrifically dull - the news equivalent of those concerts by committee, every slither of interest edited out in the pursuit of consensus.

Today we make an exception for 25 charities who entreat the Prime Minister to accept some ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - any, in fact.

Britain's toxic debate (or lack of) on economic immigration - a separate issue - means that Downing Street feels boxed-in on refugees, unable to  show compassion in the face of what  the UN high commissioner for refugees calls "the defining humanitarian crisis of our time". Britain has given generously, £600 million in aid,  helping millions of families to survive, and many people here will argue that we are not obliged to accept the persecuted and displaced from another country's civil war, even one as appalling as Syria's.

How short are our memories, though? This is a country where we encouraged the opposition, helped to  fortify them, and until the House of  Commons intervened were prepared to launch military strikes. Syria's war is not ours, but we bear a little responsibility for our assistance to the  rebels - and our subsequent flight.

More than 2 million refugees have registered in Syria's neighbours. Without "opening floodgates", could we 63 million afford to take 100 Syrians? 1,000? 5,000? Can the PM and Chancellor help chivy their international counterparts to do  more for the millions left in camps?

Syria was a functioning society of friendly people, albeit a police state, when I travelled round the country six months before the war began. This people's scale of suffering now is scarcely conceivable. They have so little. We have left our compassion.

[*i@independent.co.uk*](mailto:i@independent.co.uk)

Twitter: @olyduff

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump has lowest approval ratings of any US President after 100 days, says latest poll; No incoming administration has scored so poorly since polling was started*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NDH-X7P1-F021-637X-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 27, 2017 Thursday 1:43 PM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS; Version:1

**Length:** 305 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

The 100 day mark of any presidency may, or may not, tell us something about the new administration.

But a flurry of surveys that have been published as Donald Trump marks the milestone, suggest he has the lowest approval rating of any newly elected commander-in-chief.

The latest survey, by CNN/ORC, puts the New York billionaire's approval rating at 44 per cent, with 54 per cent of people saying they disapprove of the way he is doing the job

Donald Trump is the worse at being the best 44% approval rating ... #LockTrumpUp

- Willie Lee Davis (@WLD01) April 27, 2017

The survey showed declining ratings on two top top issues - healthcare and immigration. Around six out of ten people, said they disapproved of his handling of these policy areas.

Ivanka

Trump at odds with father over ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

The rating means he is the least popular occupant of the Oval Office at this point since modern polling began, with the presidency of Dwight Eisenhower.

Mr Trump assumed office with a historically low approval rating. At one point it stood at just 35 per cent, but the latest Gallup Daily tracking poll has a placed him at 43 per cent.

Last week, Mr Trump seized on a poll by Rasmussen Reports - whose methodology was questioned by others - which suggested his approval rating stood as high as 49 per cent.

Read more

Trump will abolish legal right to an abortion, says prominent doctor

Donald Trump reveals why he backed down on Nafta

Trump aid cuts 'a middle finger to women globally', Amnesty says

Mr Trump appears to be considerably behind his predecessors. At this point in his presidency, Barack Obama enjoyed an approval rating of 65 points, George W Bush's numbers stood at 62, Bill Clinton's approval rating was 55 and George HW Bush's approval rating was 56.

At the 100th day of his presidency, Ronald Reagan had an approval rating of 68.

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Isis kidnap Iraqi toddler called Messi forcing little boy to change 'infidel' name during two years of captivity; Yazidifamily of five-year-old say he is traumatised by his experiences living in Isis captivity*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NDB-8H51-F021-654P-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 26, 2017 Wednesday 3:21 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST; Version:1

**Length:** 305 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

The family of a five-year-old boy named 'Messi' by his football-mad father have spoken about their ordeal at the hands of Isis, six months after being freed.

Iraqi news outlet Kurdistan 24 interviewed Messi and members of his family in footage aired on Tuesday.

The Yazidi family said they were kidnapped from their home of Singar in northern Iraq after the militants blitzed across the border from Syria in 2014, and held captive for two years.

Read more

The secret civilian network rescuing Yazidi women from Isis

Escaped Isis sex-slave urges EU to recognise Yazidi genocide

All-women Yazidi militia launches revenge operation against Isis

Amal Clooney calls on UK to take more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Isis burns 19 Yazidi women to death in Mosul

Messi, now five, was named after the famous Argentinean Barcelona player, but when Isis learned his name they declared it blasphemous and the family were forced to change it to 'Hassan', the boy's aunt told a reporter.

"They brainwashed and intimidated the child, making him reject his name and ask to be called Hassan," she said.

Messi is traumatised by his experiences in captivity. He is now unsure whether to answer to his name and barely speaks, according to his family.

The little boy wore Messi's FC Barcelona shirt while being interviewed, and played with both a football and a toy gun.

Isis' persecution of Iraq's religious minority Yazidi population - including mass murder, enslavement, and rape - has been likened to a genocide.

More than 5,000 have been killed by the Sunni extremists, and around 7,000 are still held in captivity, the UN says - although the true figures are likely to be far higher.

Messi's family were rescued from Isis by Kurdish peshmerga troops in October 2016, and are currently living at an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Aqrah, a town under Kurdish control.

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump's new travel ban 'delayed until next week'; New plans only have 'minor technical differences' to original executive order blocked by the courts*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MY1-GTJ1-F021-609W-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 22, 2017 Wednesday 11:20 PM GMT

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**Section:** US POLITICS; Version:4

**Length:** 341 words

**Byline:** Katie Forster

**Body**

Donald Trump's new travel ban has been delayed until next week, a White House official has said.

The new executive order, replacing the directive suspending access to the US to citizens of seven mostly Muslim countries, was expected this week but will now be issued "sometime next week", said the official.

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly has called the revised order a "more streamlined version" of the original travel ban, which sparked mass protests.

Read more

British Muslim teacher denied entry to America on school trip

Trump has made the world a 'darker, unstable place', says Amnesty

Trump's 'Muslim travel ban' denounced by relatives of 9/11 victims

The first ban, signed on 27 January, temporarily restricted entry to the US for citizens of Iraq, Iran, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and Libya - and indefinitely to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

It caused widespread confusion at airports in the US and elsewhere, but was blocked after three federal judges ruled that it was not legitimate.

Instead of fighting for the order to be reinstated, the President is submitting a new one with only "minor technical differences", said senior White House adviser Stephen Miller.

Mr Miller told Fox News the revised travel ban would "have the same basic policy outcome" as the first, but would be "responsive to the judicial ruling" that halted it.

The Court of Appeal suggested the order be redrafted so it did not risk violating the US constitution, which forbids discrimination on the grounds of religion.

Read more

More than half Americans 'disapprove of president's job performance'

The new executive order is reportedly expected to make clear that green card holders - immigrants with an indefinite right to live in the US - are exempt from the ban.

"The President is contemplating releasing a tighter, more streamlined version of the first executive order," Mr Kelly said at the Munich Security Conference at the weekend.

He added that officials are working on a "phase in" period to help avoid confusion at airports seen after Mr Trump's first immigration directive.

**Load-Date:** February 22, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Appeals court denies Donald Trump's request to reinstate the travel ban*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MTD-N8K1-JCS0-D00M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

February 6, 2017 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 21

**Length:** 327 words

**Byline:** SAMUEL OSBORNE

**Body**

A federal appeals court has denied President Trump's request to immediately reinstate his travel ban on seven Muslim-majority countries. The Department of Homeland Security suspended all enforcement of Mr Trump's immigration ban following a nationwide locking of the executive order from the federal judge James Robart in Washington. Mr Trump called the order from the "so-called" judge "ridiculous".

However, the White House said the government would adhere to the court's ruling until the Justice Department intervenes. But the ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco denied the Justice Department's request, and instead asked both the state of Washington and the Trump administration to file more arguments at the start of next week. The higher court's denial of an immediate stay means legal battles over the ban will continue into the coming week at least.

Acting Solicitor General Noel Francisco forcefully argued in the government's brief that presidential authority is "largely immune from judicial control" when it comes to deciding who can enter or stay in the United States. The Justice Department asked that the federal judge's order be stayed pending resolution of the appeal, so that the ban can "ensure that those approved for admission do not intend to harm Americans and that they have no ties to terrorism." "We'll win," Mr Trump said at the start of the weekend. "For the safety of the country, we'll win."

In his written order, Mr Robart said it is not the court's job to "create policy or judge the wisdom of any particular policy promoted by the other two branches," but rather to make sure that an action taken by the government "comports with our country's laws." Mr Trump's executive order sought to ban all travellers from the seven countries - Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen - for 90 days and suspended the US's refugee program for 120 days. It also indefinitely suspended ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US.

**Load-Date:** February 5, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Petition map shows which parts of UK called for Donald Trump's state visit to be cancelled; US President's executive order sparked furious global backlash with protesters taking to streets around the world*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MS1-56G1-JCJY-G14W-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 30, 2017 Monday 5:48 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 335 words

**Byline:** Lucy Pasha-Robinson

**Body**

A petition calling on the UK Government to cancel Donald Trump's planned state visit reached one million signaturesamid growing outrage over an immigration ban implemented in the US.

The Presidentsigned an executive order on Friday limiting immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries, suspending refugee resettlement for 120 days and barring ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely from entering the country.

The order provoked a furious public outcry around the world, with protesters taking to the streets in outrage over what many called a "Muslim ban".

Read more

Trump's visit will be subject the debate it deserves

British politeness does not extend to a state visit for Trump

Nike CEO slams Donald Trump's immigration ban

Senator Chuck Schumer breaks down talking about Trump's 'Muslim Ban'

In the UK, a record number of people have signed the petition, with signatures reaching more then 1,370,000 at the time of writing.

A heat map attached to the petition showed UK residents in large cities and university towns were more likely to have signed.

Heat map shows parts of UK that do not want to see US President welcomed with a state visit (

Screenshot

)

London, Brighton, Exeter, Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham, among others, all saw a high concentrate of residents voice their concerns.However, no notable north/south divide was visible in the coloured map, with darker saturation representing a higher proportion of votes.

Any petition that receives more than 100,000 signatures within six months must be considered for debate by MPs in Parliament.

Read more

The biggest danger to America is Donald Trump, not refugees

Petitions that attract more than 10,000 in the time period requires a response from the Government.

The "Muslim ban" petition eclipsed the target within a few hours, surpassing 280,000 signatures by 3pm on the day of launch.

However, Downing Street reiterated its stance had not changed on the President's forthcoming trip.

"An invitation has been extended and accepted," a Number 10 spokesman said.

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump expected to sign orders restricting immigration for refugees from Muslim countries; White House officials said he'll order the construction of his infamous Mexican border wall on Wednesday*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MPW-F071-F021-64C7-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 24, 2017 Tuesday 11:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 356 words

**Byline:** Justin Carissimo

**Body**

Donald Trump is expected to sign executive ordersthis week to prevent ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and Muslim immigrants from entering the United States. He's also expected to order the construction of his infamous, Mexican borderwall on Wednesday.

The president is preparing to restrict access to the United States from immigrants, refugees, some visa holders from Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen,

Reuters

reports, citing

congressional aides briefed on the orders.

President Trump's restrictions will likely include a multi-month ban on admitting immigrants from all countries until the State Department and Department of Homeland Security finalize an "extreme vetting" process.

Nihad Awad, the national executive director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, condemned the initial media reports of President Trump's immigration orders.

"These [executive orders] will not make our nation safer," he tweeted Tuesday night, "rather they will make it more fearful and less welcoming."

In addition to the ban, the president will begin rolling out executive actions that include preparations for his wall on the US-Mexico border along with other enforcement plans, according to two administration officials who spoke to

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Read more

Trump team deletes apology to LGBT people for past discrimination

Trump nominee admits Obama inauguration crowd size was bigger

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He eventually softened his stance on both policies while promising to implement a process of extreme vetting for immigrants leaving countries in the Middle East. Come January, the newly elected president's transition team began asking Congress to push funding for the wall through the country's appropriations budget.

**Load-Date:** January 25, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Starbucks to hire 10,000 refugees in response to Trump's 'Muslim ban'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MS0-4B01-F021-60W5-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 30, 2017 Monday 7:44 AM GMT

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**Section:** BUSINESS

**Length:** 339 words

**Byline:** Josh Boak

**Body**

Starbucks says it will hire 10,000 refugees over the next five years, a response to President Donald Trump's indefinite suspension of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and temporary travel bans that apply to six other Muslim-majority nations.

Howard Schultz, the coffee retailer's chairman and CEO, said in a letter to employees Sunday that the hiring would apply to stores worldwide and the effort would start in the United States where the focus would be on hiring immigrants "who have served with U.S. troops as interpreters and support personnel."

Schultz, a supporter of Hillary Clinton during the presidential run, took aim at other parts of a Trump agenda focused on immigration, repealing former President Barack Obama's health care law and restructuring trade with Mexico. The letter said that Starbucks would help support coffee growers in Mexico, provide health insurance to eligible workers if the health care law is repealed and back an Obama-era immigration program that allows young immigrants who were brought to the country as children to apply for a two-year reprieve from deportation and a work permit.

Donald Trump announces a ban on refugees and all visitors from Muslim-majority countries

Read more

Donald Trump's immigration policy knocks global markets

Republicans are worried about Donald Trump repealing Obamacare

Trump watches Finding Dory while America protests his immigration ban

The move reflects the increasing complexity that businesses face when dealing with the Trump administration. Trump has met with CEOs at Ford, General Motors and Boeing and asked them to create jobs in the United States, while touting each announcement about new factory jobs as a success even if those additions had been planned before his presidential victory.

But not all corporate leaders have embraced Trump. Schultz added that Starbucks would aim to communicate with workers more frequently, saying Sunday, "I am hearing the alarm you all are sounding that the civility and human rights we have all taken for granted for so long are under attack."

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2017

**End of Document**



[*African Union criticises US for 'taking many of our people as slaves' and not taking refugees; Trump has suspended all US refugee programmes and banned immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries, three of which are AU members*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MS0-FWN1-F021-639Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 30, 2017 Monday 12:32 PM GMT

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**Section:** AFRICA

**Length:** 324 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

The head of the African Union has criticised Donald Trump's ban on immigration from some Muslim-majority countries, saying it presents "one of the greatest challenges" for the continent.

As representatives of the AU's 53 member states met in Addis Ababa for a two-day summit, the chief of its commission said the bloc was entering "very turbulent times" after the US President's election.

"The very country to which many of our people were taken as slaves during the transatlantic slave trade has now decided to ban refugees from some of our countries," said Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

"What do we do about this? Indeed, this is one of the greatest challenges to our unity and solidarity."

Mr Trump's executive order prevented people with passports from three African nations - Libya, Somalia and Sudan - from travelling to the US. It also blocked visas for citizens from four Middle Eastern countries - Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Iran.

The President has also suspended all US refugee programmes for 120 days, and ended the flow of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to America indefinitely.

Also speaking in Ethiopia, the UN Secretary General commended African countries for opening their borders to refugees and people fleeing violence while other parts of the world, including the developed West, close boundaries and build walls.

Antonio Guterres, attending his first AU summit as the UN chief, said: "African nations are among the world's largest and most generous hosts of refugees.

"African borders remain open for those in need of protection when so many borders are being closed, even in the most developed countries in the world."

Mr Guterres didn't make a direct reference to the recent executive orders signed by Mr Trump, which also included a commitment to build a wall along the Mexican border, but his comment drew enthusiastic applause from hundreds of African leaders, officials and dignitaries who attended the opening of the summit, the Associated Press reported.

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Syrians are scattered but united by the same dream; Syrians are scattered but united by the same dream*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BRM-0441-DXDT-605T-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 14, 2014 Friday 7:34 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 749 words

**Byline:** Beirut

**Body**

It started with a trickle, a few thousand families moving across a badly demarcated border. In the summer of 2011, there were 5,000 refugees in Lebanon. Most had moved in with family members, some were staying in mosques or abandoned schools. That their stay would be temporary was unquestionable at the time. But it was not to be.

At al-Ibna school in Wadi Khaled, where 85 people were living, the sign outside had the word "refugees" scribbled out with a key and replaced with "visitors".

Now Lebanon is hosting over a million refugees. By the end of the year, the UN expects the number to hit 1.6 million. That means Lebanon's population of four million will have swelled by almost 40 per cent. Three years after the start of the conflict, there are more than nine million people; almost half of Syria's population, on the move. More than 2.5 million Syrians have streamed across Syria's borders into Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. The UN predicts that if the conflict continues, Syrians will become the largest refugee population in the world.

A map of Lebanon that uses red dots to indicate where ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have settled down is a sea of red. And Lebanon's infrastructure was already straining to supply water and electricity before the tidal wave of refugees hit. Official camps are still banned; the myriad of tents along the roads are referred to as informal tented settlements. The refugees often live in cramped conditions, with up to a dozen people sharing a single room or tent. Medical concerns are rife. The first suspected case of polio among refugees in Lebanon was detected this week.

Many new arrivals have been displaced multiple times within Syria before deciding to leave. "We were displaced four times before we came here," says Abu Uday, a soldier who defected and moved his family to Lebanon last month. Every time they would move, the bombing would follow them. The family of five now live in a brightly coloured container, part of a new informal settlement in the no-man's-land between Syria and Lebanon, outside of Arsal. That border town has tripled in size because of the refugees and is full. "I don't know who is right anymore, the regime or the rebels," his wife says.

Throughout the region, Syrians are streaming across the border. In Jordan, Zaatari camp with its 100,000 inhabitants is the second-largest refugee camp in the world and the kingdom's de facto fourth-biggest city. "It's a temporary city," says its "mayor", UNHCR's Kilian Kleinschmidt, of the sprawling construction in the desert. But how temporary, nobody knows. The camp started out as just tents; now longer-term residents live in containers and people have even built gardens with fountains. The main shopping street is called the Champs-Élysées ; there are over 2,500 shops in the camp, including cafés, wedding-dress rental shops and even a nightclub.

Although Jordan has curtailed its borders, more refugees keep coming. Azraq camp, which will able to accommodate 130,000 people, will open on 30 April. The site, situated in the middle of the desert 60 miles east of Amman, has newly paved roads, a police station, two schools and a hospital and families will live in containers. The UN has called the opening "timely" as 600 Syrians are entering Jordan daily. The country is already hosting almost 585,000 refugees; 80 per cent live outside of the camps, mostly in urban areas throughout the country. In Iraq, which is experiencing its own uptick in violence, there are 225,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Turkey, where the government has taken sole responsibility for the camps, has more than 630,000.

Most refugees settle in an urban environment. The work that is available to them is mostly of the manual, badly paid kind. Professionals often find themselves barred from practising their profession. For example, the medical syndicate in Lebanon has closed ranks and charges an admission fee of over £200,000 to Syrians.

As the conflict continues and their savings run out, a growing number of refugees are forced to rely on aid for their survival.

But the regional Syria appeal, which at over £2.5bn is the largest in UN history, has only been funded 14 per cent for 2014. UNHCR has had to cut off a third of its beneficiaries in Lebanon over the past year, at least in part due to funding constraints.

Yet over the past three years, refugees from across the country have been united in one thing. Their dream is to return to Syria, no matter how little remains of the life they used to lead there.

**Load-Date:** March 15, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump expected to order Mexican border wall and temporarily ban refugees; White House aides say the president will begin with his border wall on Wednesday*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MPW-F071-F021-64C9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 24, 2017 Tuesday 11:18 PM GMT

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**Load-Date:** January 25, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Theresa May insists Donald Trump gave her no advance warning of his 'Muslim ban' on refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MSD-D651-JCJY-G1PC-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 1, 2017 Wednesday 12:27 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 342 words

**Byline:** Rob Merrick

**Body**

Theresa May has insisted she had no "advance notice" of Donald Trump's looming announcement of a ban on refugees from Muslim-majority countries.

However, under pressure in the Commons, the Prime Minister insisted everyone was warned that some "travel restrictions" were coming - because the President said so, in his election campaign.

The carefully-phrased answer appeared to leave open the possibility that the controversy was discussed in some form, during the two leaders' White House meeting last week.

Ms May also failed to answer when Jeremy Corbyn demanded to know whether she had sought to "persuade" Mr Trump to step back from announcing his travel ban.

She told the Labour leader: "If he is asking me whether I had advance notice of the ban on refugees, the answer is no.

"If he is asking me if I had advance notice that the executive order could affect British citizens, the answer is no.

"If he is asking if I had advance notice of the travel restrictions, the answer is we all did - because President Trump said he was going to do this in his election campaign."

The Prime Minister insisted that, what mattered, was "to protect the interests of British citizens - and that is exactly what she did".

At the weekend, Mr Trump signed an executive order, which halted the US refugee programme for 120 days and indefinitely banned all ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

It suspended the entry of all nationals from seven mainly Muslim countries - Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Syria - on national security grounds, the White House said.

On Monday, Channel 4 News claimed that Ms May was tipped off in advance about the US travel ban, something Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson refused to answer questions about.

The claim was potentially hugely damaging, after her initial refusal to criticise the announcement on Saturday - before, many hours later, No.10 said it was wrong.

To the surprise of many MPs, Mr Corbyn did not continue to question Ms May about what was said in the White House - including whether she tried to influence Mr Trump on the travel ban.

**Load-Date:** February 1, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Russian ambassador shot: Gunman reportedly shouted 'We die in Aleppo, you die here'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MF2-NV01-JCJY-G4DD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 19, 2016 Monday 4:46 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 328 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

A gunman reportedly shouted "We die in Aleppo, you die here," before shooting the Russian ambassador to Ankara.

Andrey Karlov was shot in the back as he made a speech at a photo exhibit in the Turkish capital, with the Russian foreign ministry confirming that Mr Karlov has died

The Russian ambassador to Ankara was shot in an attack at an art gallery in the Turkish capital on Monday and the Russian RIA news agency said he had died of his wounds.

Read more

Russian ambassador shot dead in Ankara - latest updates

Video appears to show the alleged shooter shouting "don't forget Aleppo, Syria," according to local reports.

The Anadolu news agency said the gunman had been "neutralised" soon after the attack, which appeared to mark one of the most serious spillovers of the Syria conflict in Turkey. Relations between Moscow and Ankara have long been fraught over the conflict, the two supporting opposing sides.

The Russian foreign ministry confirmed the attack mounted as Ambassador Andrei Karlov made a speech at the opening of a photographic exhibition. Hurriyet newspaper said Turkish special forces had surrounded the building. NTV said three other people were wounded.

Gunfire heard outside art exhibit where Russian ambassador to Turkey is shot dead

A Reuters witness said that while gunfire rang out for some time after the attack, it had now stopped. A Hurriyet newspaper reporter said the attacker chanted Islamist slogans.

Russia and Turkey have been involved in conflict in Syria across the border from where over two million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have settled. Turkey has been a staunch opponent of President Bashar al-Assad while Russia has deployed troops and its air force in support of the Syrian leader.

Tensions have escalated in recent weeks as Russian-backed Syrian forces have fought for control of the eastern part of the city of Aleppo, triggering a stream of refugees.

It was not immediately clear who carried out the attack.

Agencies contributed to this report

**Load-Date:** December 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian crisis: Peers put Cameron under pressure to 'heed the call' and take in refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BC0-7X71-DXDT-62DK-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 23, 2014 Thursday 7:46 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 781 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill, Andrew Grice

**Body**

The pressure on David Cameron to allow hundreds of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to come to Britain is increasing, with 55 members of the House of Lords urging him to sign up to a United Nations programme.

In an open letter published in The Independent, a cross-party alliance of peers urges the Prime Minister to "heed the call" for Britain to accept its share of Syria's most vulnerable refugees.  It calls for "a co-ordinated resettlement programme in the UK" and describes the UNHCR scheme as a "moral imperative" and the only "durable solution".

Mr Cameron said on Thursday he is "open-minded" about accepting some refugees but remains reluctant to join the UNHCR programme. He is expected to give some more ground in an attempt to head off  an embarrassing defeat in the Commons next Wednesday. Labour has called a debate on the issue and is confident of attracting the support of Liberal Democrat MPs after Nick Clegg backed Labour's call for Britain to take about 500 refugees. Some Tory backbenchers may also vote with Labour.

Labour has drafted a consensual motion in an attempt to attract as much cross-party support as possible. It welcomes the Government's £600m of aid to Syria but expresses concern about "the plight of the most vulnerable refugees who will find it hardest to cope in the camps in the region, including victims of torture and children without families" and urges and Britain to join the  UNHCR resettlement programme.

On Thursday night Mr Cameron insisted Britain is "fulfilling our moral obligation" to the Syrian people and argued that Western countries could not solve their "moral conscience" by accepting small numbers of refugees. He told the BBC: "Let's not pretend that some sort of international quota system, with countries taking a few hundred people, is going to solve this problem. It is not."

From Damascus to Davos to Westminster: The issue dominating the headlinesIn pictures: Syria protests at the Geneva II peace talks

The peers who have signed the new letter include Lord (Paddy) Ashdown, the former  Lib Dem leader; Baroness (Shirley) Williams, the former Cabinet minister and Lib Dem leader in the Lords;  the Rt Rev Lord (Rowan) Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury; Baroness Betty Boothroyd, the former Commons Speaker and Tory peers Baroness (Elizabeth) Berridge and Baroness (Gloria) Hooper.

Lady Berridge said:"While being strong on immigration, we should not lose sight of the importance of asylum and helping some of the most vulnerable people in an awful situation that we must remember has been going on for three years. Hopefully we are reaching a tipping point where more of my Conservative colleagues will agree with this."

Lord Ashdown accused  the Prime Minister of putting the "baleful hand of politics" above his "proper and decent instincts" to help those in plight. He said: "It is frankly shaming that Britain is so far down the league table of Western nations compared to commit to resettlement. I have a strong suspicion that this is not to do with a humanitarian need, but far more to do with the political imperative of the Tories trying to make sure the public understand their hard-line on immigration."

Lord Ashdown added: "The Prime Minister has sought to hide from his moral obligation by simply diverting attention to the money."

Maurice Wren, chief executive of the Refugee Council, which co-ordinated the letter, said: "We're heartened by the growing political consensus that resettlement is the right thing to do. The countries neighbouring Syria have not had the luxury of choice about the numbers of refugees they offer safe haven to. The UK must stand alongside these countries and pledge to accept our fair share."

So far 18 nations have signed up to the UNHCR scheme to resettle the most vulnerable refugees, such as children, vulnerable adults and victims of sexual abuse, with Germany alone agreeing to accept 10,000.

Vincent Cochtel, director of the UNHCR's Europe Bureau, said "from the perspective of the refugee it would make a hell of a difference". He said: "The big picture is there are 2.4m ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. When you zoom down and take a country like Turkey, it has taken 700,000 refugees, while the 47 countries that make up the rest of Europe have only taken 70,000 refugees. That gives you an idea of the scale of the problem."

Read more:Dear Prime Minister: Full text of peers' letter to David Cameron regarding the Syrian refugee crisisAndreas Whittam Smith: The plight of Syria's refugees transcends party politics. What's worrying is that Nigel Farage realised that before our Prime MinisterThe situation for Syria's refugees is desperate. Our Government must now sign up to the UN's resettlement plan

**Load-Date:** January 24, 2014

**End of Document**



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The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 24, 2017 Tuesday 11:18 PM GMT

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**Load-Date:** January 25, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Syrians are scattered but united by the same dream; Refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BRK-G7N1-F072-4416-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

March 15, 2014 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 32

**Length:** 749 words

**Byline:** FERNANDE VAN TETS IN BEIRUT

**Body**

It started with a trickle, a few thousand families moving across a badly demarcated border. In the summer of 2011, there were 5,000 refugees in Lebanon. Most had moved in with family members, some were staying in mosques or abandoned schools. That their stay would be temporary was unquestionable at the time. But it was not to be.

At al-Ibna school in Wadi Khaled, where 85 people were living, the sign outside had the word "refugees" scribbled out with a key and replaced with "visitors".

Now Lebanon is hosting over a million refugees. By the end of the year, the UN expects the number to hit 1.6 million. That means Lebanon's population of four million will have swelled by almost 40 per cent. Three years after the start of the conflict, there are more than nine million people; almost half of Syria's population, on the move. More than 2.5 million Syrians have streamed across Syria's borders into Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. The UN predicts that if the conflict continues, Syrians will become the largest refugee population in the world.

A map of Lebanon that uses red dots to indicate where ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have settled down is a sea of red. And Lebanon's infrastructure was already straining to supply water and electricity before the tidal wave of refugees hit. Official camps are still banned; the myriad of tents along the roads are referred to as informal tented settlements. The refugees often live in cramped conditions, with up to a dozen people sharing a single room or tent. Medical concerns are rife. The first suspected case of polio among refugees in Lebanon was detected this week.

Many new arrivals have been displaced multiple times within Syria before deciding to leave. "We were displaced four times before we came here," says Abu Uday, a soldier who defected and moved his family to Lebanon last month. Every time they would move, the bombing would follow them. The family of five now live in a brightly coloured container, part of a new informal settlement in the no-man's-land between Syria and Lebanon, outside of Arsal. That border town has tripled in size because of the refugees and is full. "I don't know who is right anymore, the regime or the rebels," his wife says .

Throughout the region, Syrians are streaming across the border. In Jordan, Zaatari camp with its 100,000 inhabitants is the second-largest refugee camp in the world and the kingdom's de facto fourth-biggest city. "It's a temporary city," says its "mayor", UNHCR's Kilian Kleinschmidt, of the sprawling construction in the desert. But how temporary, nobody knows. The camp started out as just tents; now longer-term residents live in containers and people have even built gardens with fountains. The main shopping street is called the Champs-??lysées ; there are over 2,500 shops in the camp, including cafés, wedding-dress rental shops and even a nightclub.

Although Jordan has curtailed its borders, more refugees keep coming. Azraq camp, which will able to accommodate 130,000 people, will open on 30 April. The site, situated in the middle of the desert 60 miles east of Amman, has newly paved roads, a police station, two schools and a hospital and families will live in containers. The UN has called the opening "timely" as 600 Syrians are entering Jordan daily. The country is already hosting almost 585,000 refugees; 80 per cent live outside of the camps, mostly in urban areas throughout the country. In Iraq, which is experiencing its own uptick in violence, there are 225,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Turkey, where the government has taken sole responsibility for the camps, has more than 630,000.

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**Load-Date:** March 15, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Dev Patel hits out at Trump's 'horrible and divisive' Muslim ban at Screen Actors Guild Awards; Star ofSlumdog Millionnaireand Lion among host of celebrities to denounce new President's travel restrictions*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRY-FPJ1-JCJY-G2HN-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 30, 2017 Monday 7:37 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 308 words

**Byline:** David Mercer

**Body**

Actor Dev Patel branded Donald Trump'scontroversial travel ban "horrible" and "divisive" as he attended the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards.

The

Slumdog Millionaire

star said he found it "utterly devastating" that the US president had decided to ban nationals from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering America.

Speaking on the red carpet, Patel - who was nominated for best supporting actor - said: "I just flew in from India a day ago. When I heard the news it was utterly devastating.

"The first thing that came into my head was the children who arrive on these shores with hope in their hearts.

"It's horrible. It's divisive.

"I hope something changes and something can be done because it really is terrible."

Read more

Theresa May tries to limit fall-out from Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban'

British actor Riz Ahmed urged people to "make your voices heard" and revealed he knew people hit by the US travel ban, which affects nationals from Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

"Now is not a time for escapism," the

Rogue One

star said on the red carpet.

"If people care about the future of this country and the world... it's time to make your voices heard."

Ahmed, who was nominated for best actor in a limited TV series for

The Night Of

, said he had launched a campaign to help young ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Singer John Legend also criticised Mr Trump's refugee ban as he arrived at the SAG Awards.

He said: "Everything our government does is being done in our name.

"I believe our country should be open and inclusive, particularly for refugees fleeing war-torn areas.

"They are fleeing terrorism, they are fleeing war, they are fleeing genocide."

Big Bang Theory

actor Simon Helberg held a sign which read "refugees welcome" as he walked the red carpet.

He was joined by wife Jocelyn Towne who had the words "let them in" written across her chest.

PA

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Second presidential debate: Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton admit what they respect about each other; Mr Trump called her a 'fighter', while she said she respected his children*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KX2-CTP1-F021-622B-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 10, 2016 Monday 3:38 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 324 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

After throwing pointed barbs about each other for 90 minutes - aboutanti-Muslim rhetoric, sexual assault, supreme court justices and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - the presidential candidates were asked to say something positive about each other.

Hillary Clinton laughed and made the first reply without hesitation.

"I respect his children, they are incredibly honourable and devoted," she said.

Read more

Hilary Clinton says leaked tape proves Donald Trump disrespects women

"I don't agree with everything he says but as a mother and grandmother that is very important to me," she added.

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"She doesn't quit. She goesn't give up. I respect that," he said about his rival. "I'm a straight shooter. I say it like it is."

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"But I consider that to be a very good trait."

Read more

Donald Trump says Clinton laughed at child rape victim Kathy Shelton. That's not quite right

Donald Trump admits using tax loophole: 'Of course I do'

Presidential debate: Donald Trump 'once mocked Bill Clinton's sexual abuse accusers' as 'unattractive'

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Ms Clinton said "so much of what he said [was] not right".

The Democrat focused on her opponent's anti-immigrant rhetoric, his negative attitude towards women and his taking advantage of tax loopholes.

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Trump Vodka removed from shelves in Israel because of kosher labelling worries; The vodka brand, one of US President-elect Donald Trump's unsuccessful business ventures, was discontinued in the USA in 2011 but is popular in Israel during Passover*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MG3-HDR1-JCJY-G3S8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 24, 2016 Saturday 12:34 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 330 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

The Chief Rabbinate of Israel has ordered bottles of Trump Vodka taken off shop shelves across the country amid fears one batch was not officially labelled as kosher-compliant.

In a statement issued earlier this week, the Chief Rabbinate, which must approve all food imports into the country regardless of whether it has been certified as kosher elsewhere, saidthat one shipment of the now-defunct vodka brand managed to get into Israel without the correct licences, and ordered a recall.

Trump Vodka, which was launched in 2006, was marketed as "the world's finest premium"spirit that would "demand the same respect and inspire the same awe as the international legacy and brand of Donald Trump himself." It was discontinued in 2011.

Read more

Israel retaliates to UN settlements vote by withdrawing ambassadors

Israel rejects UN settlements resolution and says it won't abide by it

Israel is taking in injured ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from Aleppo

Moving US embassy to Jerusalem would be 'a declaration of war'

The Times of Israel

reports that although the gold bottles- which feature the tagline "success distilled" - are now not available anywhere else, they remain popular in Israel during the Jewish holidayPassover.

Trump Vodka is made from potato rather than grain, making it kosher to drink during the eight-day holiday. Passoverthis year was celebrated in April.

Since a rogue shipment of the vodka, which is sold under licence, did not get authorisation from the Chief Rabbinate's import division, all bottles with the code L34211120 "should be removed from the shelves," the authority said.

Flavoured and plain versions of the spirit can be found in the country, as well as Trump energy drinks.

In 2013, a production error meant that some Trump Vodka which was sold in Israel was made from grain rather than potatoes or molasses. Bottles were then sold with labels warning that their contents may not meet kosher requirements,

The Jerusalem Post

reported.

**Load-Date:** December 24, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian boy with no arms in Donald Trump's America says 'anything is possible in this world'; Ahmad Alkhalaf, 11, hopes his mother and four siblings - currently in Turkey -will be allowed to join him and his father in the US despite Donald Trump's pledge to stop Muslim immigration*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MJ1-DKS1-F021-64XG-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 2, 2017 Monday 9:17 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 742 words

**Byline:** Philip Marcelo

**Body**

Ahmad Alkhalaf has had a busy year. He attendedBarack Obama's final State of the Union address as a special guest of a congressman. He learned to bike and rollerblade, took martial arts and gymnastics classes and spent his summer playing soccer and swimming in a lake at a day camp in the Boston suburbs.

And he received his first pair of prosthetic arms after his were blown off three years ago in a refugee camp bomb blast that also killed three of his siblings.

But as the 11-year-old Syrian boy looks to another year in his adopted homeland, he says his dream is to be reunited with his mother and four surviving siblings, who are living in Istanbul.

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Donald Trump only has to get one or two big decisions right

"I feel like I'm losing her. It's been too long. I can't take it anymore."

But, despite his injuries and the separation of his family, Ahmad still has hope.

"Anything is possible in this world. You just have to believe in yourself," he said.

Ahmad's father, Dirgam Alkhalaf, said those hopes largely hinge on whether President-elect Donald Trump follows through on his pledge to curtail the flow of Syriansand Muslims to the US.

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"I can only be hopeful he'll do the right thing," Mr Alkhalaf said of Mr Trump through an interpreter. "No matter what people say, I'm optimistic."

Trump transition team officials didn't return emails seeking comment on the family's case.

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"There is nothing left in Syria for us. Our home is destroyed; the government is out to get us," he said, referring toBasharal-Assad's regime, which he says conducted the 2013 bombing.

"I've got nowhere to go if the US doesn't want me."

The father and son have been living among a rotating group of Muslim families since their arrival in June 2015 on a medical visa for Ahmad.

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The emotional strain of separation has taken its toll on the family, Mr Alkhalaf said.

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"Emotionally, I'm drained," Mr Alkhalaf said. "If we were all together, I think a lot of us would feel better. It's half the battle."

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Ahmad said he tries to perk his mother up by telling her about the new things he's experiencing.

"I try to make her happy, but it's hard," Ahmad said.

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Officials at Heights Elementary say Ahmad's stresses haven't appeared to affect his schooling. If anything, they say, they're impressed with how quickly he has embraced his new environment, where he is receiving physical and occupational therapy, one-on-one reading and maths help and other support.

"He really wants to talk to people and understand things on many levels," said Holly Geiger, Ahmad's teacher.

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As Ahmad ran off to join an arts and craft session, Mr Jalal worried what the new year might bring.

"You can't have one parent and not the other, no matter how good the life is here," he said. "There's a big missing part."

Associated Press

**Load-Date:** January 2, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Second presidential debate: Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton admit what they respect about each other; Mr Trump called her a 'fighter', while she said she respected his children*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KXB-2961-JCJY-G06V-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

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**Load-Date:** October 11, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian boy with no arms in Trump's America says 'anything is possible in this world ... believe in yourself'; Ahmad Alkhalaf, 11, hopes his mother and four siblings - currently in Turkey -will be allowed to join him and his father in the US despite Donald Trump's pledge to stop Muslim immigration*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MJ0-XRM1-F021-63BX-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 2, 2017 Monday 9:17 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 746 words

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The Associated Press

**Load-Date:** January 2, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Fifty Syrian refugees admitted to UK so far; NEWS IN BRIEF ASYLUM*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5CJ0-8851-F072-442V-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

June 28, 2014 Saturday

Second Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 52 words

**Body**

The UK has accepted 50 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** so far under its resettlement programme. In January, the Government launched a "vulnerable person relocation scheme" aimed at helping the "most needy people". Home Office minister Karen Bradley said "several hundred" people were expected to arrive over the next three years.

**Load-Date:** June 27, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Syrian boy with no arms in Donald Trump's America says 'anything is possible in this world'; Ahmad Alkhalaf, 11, hopes his mother and four siblings - currently in Turkey -will be allowed to join him and his father in the US despite Donald Trump's pledge to stop Muslim immigration*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MJ0-XRM1-F021-63BY-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 2, 2017 Monday 9:17 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 750 words

**Byline:** Philip Marcelo

**Body**

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The Associated Press

**Load-Date:** January 2, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Celebrities call on Cameron to take more Syria refugees as one young mother tells of her ordeal; 'Nour', who was tortured by the Assad regime, is one of only 90 refugees Britain has accepted. She talks to JAMIE MERRILL*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5F56-7DP1-JCS0-D00N-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 26, 2015 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 1270 words

**Byline:** JAMIE MERRILL

**Body**

The safety of a modest flat in the West Midlands and the care of a British midwife for the birth of her fifth child is a debt Nour knows she can never repay.

That is because the young mother is one of the fortunate group of less than 100 refugees who have been resettled in the UK as part of a scheme offer sanctuary to the most vulnerable victims of Syria's four-year civil war.

In 2011, when the fighting broke out in northern Syria, she used her basic first aid skills to help treat survivors as - in her words - "homes were shelled to rubble".

Her activity soon came to the attention of the regime, leading to her imprisonment and torture. Her crime was to have dared to have helped injured civilians caught in the middle of the conflict.

"They beat people in front of me until they died," she told The Independent. "They beat me with electric cables every day. They beat me day and night with the back of a rifle. They wanted me to admit to being a terrorist because I helped people who were hurt."

After a period of detention - she is not certain how long the regime kept her - a prisoner swap reunited her with her four children. (The fifth, a girl, was born in England in December.) She fled to Lebanon, where she lived in shacks and shelters, before the United Nations arranged for her to come to Britain last July. She was one of the first Syrians to arrive.

Nour isn't her real name. Her parents are still in Syria and at risk of reprisals. But now - on the first anniversary of the Government's decision to accept some ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - she takes the brave step of speaking out to ask Britain to welcome more.

Last January, following a concerted campaign supported by The Independent, the Government committed to resettling 500 of the most vulnerable ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Since then, though, its pledge has been downgraded to a commitment to resettle "several hundred" Syrians over several years. Latest immigration statistics show that just 90 Syrians, including Nour, have arrived under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme.

Frustrated by the Government's lack of action, Refugee Council, Amnesty International and Oxfam today publish an open letter to David Cameron urging the Prime Minister to take the "simple, yet historic" choice of offering refuge to more victims.

The letter, printed below, is signed by the Oscar winner Emma Thompson, Downton Abbey's Michelle Dockery, Grayson Perry and other cultural luminaries.

Kate Allen, Amnesty International UK's director, said: "The UK often prides itself on its history of offering sanctuary to refugees but this Government can't hold its head high when it comes to the most vulnerable refugees from the conflict in Syria."

Maurice Wren, the chief executive of the Refugee Council, added: "The question is, does David Cameron want to go down in history as the Prime Minister who rationed his compassion to a few hundred people?"

Aid agencies are keen to stress that resettlement would be temporary. Nour, who has received additional support from the charity Citizens UK, said she had a "sense of relief" at leaving "constant fear" behind, adding that she was "grateful" to the Midlands council that has resettled her and 50 of her compatriots.

She said: "I've been treated so well here. But Britain should take more Syrians??? There are many more people more at risk than me. Britain should offer them sanctuary to take them away from the fear. Britain should make them safe - just until the regime falls or there is peace. I love Syria; there is no doubt I will go back when I can."

The humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Syria and the surrounding region is continuing to worsen, with the number of refugees swelling to more than 3.7 million.

The Government is keen to stress that Britain has been at the "forefront" of the humanitarian response to the crisis and has pledged £700m. But some councils currently outside the VPR scheme - including Kingston and Malvern - have come forward offering to accept ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Last night the shadow home secretary, Yvette Cooper, said Mr Cameron should be "ashamed" of the Government's record, which was in "stark contrast" to other Western countries. She said: "The UNHCR is asking some of the wealthiest countries in the world to help orphaned children, women who have been raped, people who have fled their homes with serious medical conditions and - whether through callousness or incompetence - the Government is just not doing enough."

A Home Office spokesman said: "Since the crisis began we have granted asylum or other forms of leave to over 3,400 Syrian nationals and dependents. In addition, through our Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, we are working closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to identify those most at risk and bring them to the UK."

**'Several hundred people' isn't good enough**

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you today to ask for your help. It's been just over a year since some of us first wrote to you to ask you to offer resettlement places to refugees fleeing Syria. We were delighted when you responded and the Government's Vulnerable Person's Relocation (VPR) scheme was established.

You promised to resettle some of the most vulnerable people fleeing conflict in the region, a promise the UK is well placed to deliver, given our decade-long programme of resettling 750 people in similar situations from around the world every year under our fantastic Gateway Protection Programme.

Given your promise and the UK's proud tradition of offering protection to those who desperately need it, we couldn't have been more disappointed when we discovered the scale of your ambition for Syria's refugees; to resettle just "several hundred people" over a three-year period.

We are writing today to ask you to urgently revisit the scale of the VPR scheme. We can do better. We must do better. People's lives depend on it. Since you set up the VPR scheme, things in the Middle East have gone from bad to worse with the rise of IS [Isis] and the number of refugees fleeing Syria surpassing three million. Events in the region have fuelled the greatest refugee crisis since the Second World War.

Against this sombre backdrop, we cannot let [the] UNHCR's desperate plea for countries to increase their resettlement pledges go unanswered. Others, including Germany and Austria, have responded by increasing the numbers of places they are offering. The US has pledged to offer thousands of places a year over many years. We are ashamed that the UK has so far failed to do likewise.

The UK's leadership in giving aid to the region has been commendable but this is a complex crisis and we need to pull out all of the stops; resettling as many refugees as we can is an important part of the emergency response.

In a climate where children are sent to work in order to help their parents survive, where young girls are sold off as child brides and where torture victims are unable to rebuild their lives, every resettlement place countries like Britain provide is a lifeline.

Resettling "several hundred people" just isn't good enough for a global leader. This issue isn't about migration statistics or party politics, it's about people. It's about the values that we in Britain hold dear; compassion and humanity. Your choice is simple, yet historic. You are in a position to offer some of the most vulnerable people in the world safety in Britain. You can offer hope. You can offer a future.

Yours sincerely,

Bella Freud, OBE

Dan Snow

Emma Thompson

Grayson Perry, CBE

Juliet Stevenson, CBE

Ken Loach

Michael Palin, CBE

Stephen Frears

Sting, CBE

Vanessa Redgrave, CBE

Dame Vivienne Westwood

Michelle Dockery

**Load-Date:** January 25, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Britain's response to Syria crisis is 'woeful', say charities; Open letter to PM highlights fact we have only accepted 100 refugees EXCLUSIVE*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DPD-0DR1-F072-4153-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

November 27, 2014 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 22

**Length:** 1360 words

**Byline:** JAMIE MERRILL

**Body**

Britain's response to the Syria crisis has been "woefully inadequate", according to a coalition of aid groups and charities urging the UK to resettle 10,000 refugees.

In an open letter to David Cameron published in The Independent, more than 30 organisations attack the Government for accepting around 100 Syrians - despite committing to welcome many more.

They urge the Prime Minister to "take the lead" in providing safety for Syria's most vulnerable people.

After four years of conflict 3.2 million refugees have fled Syria in what aid agencies have called the "worst humanitarian crisis of our generation".

Western governments have been asked by the UN to accept just 100,000 of the most vulnerable refugees from the region. Britain initially resisted these calls, instead highlighting the aid it is offering in the region.

In January, following a concerted campaign supported by The Independent, the Government carried out a major U-turn and committed to admitting up to 500 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Since then, however, this pledge has been downgraded to a commitment to resettle "several hundred" of the most vulnerable Syrians and today's quarterly immigration figures are expected to show that only around 100 Syrians have arrived under the Government's vulnerable persons relocation (VPR) scheme.

Last night Yvette Cooper, the shadow Home Secretary, said the Government's record was "shameful". She said: "Theresa May promised Britain would help up to 500 refugees. But while other countries have done their bit, Britain hasn't." The low number welcomed under the VPR scheme is in stark contrast to those welcomed by other Western countries, including Germany, which has agreed to resettle 20,000 refugees, and the US, which has already granted visas to 9,100 Syrians.

The letter is the first time that aid agencies, including Oxfam, Save the Children, Amnesty International, Cafod, the Refugee Council and Christian Aid have openly attacked Government policy on Syrian resettlement.

The letter reflects dismay among aid agencies that Britain has been so slow to accept refugees while countries in the region, such as Lebanon and Jordan, are struggling to provide for 3.2 million Syrians with the approach of winter and sub-zero temperatures.

In Lebanon's Bekaa Valley alone more than 140,000 Syrians are living in makeshift shelters, while earlier this week it emerged that Jordan was allegedly forcing some refugees to return to Syria.

Justin Forsyth, chief executive of the Save the Children, said Syria's neighbours are "struggling under the burden" while "Britain is offering sanctuary to so few". Mark Goldring, Oxfam GB's chief executive, said: "Our government has a responsibility to rise above domestic politics and see this for what it is: Britain giving safe, often temporary, homes to people in the direst of need."

A Downing Street spokesman said: "The UK has been at the forefront of the international response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, having pledged £700m, making us the second-largest bilateral donor. This funding is providing support including food, medical care and relief items for over a million people.

"Through our VPR scheme, we are working closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to identify those most at risk and bring them to the UK."

**CASE STUDY**

**THE FAMILY FORCED TO FLEE SYRIA AFTER SEE ING THEIR FATHER EXECUTED**

Before Tayma, 38, and her seven children fled Syria 10 months ago she had "everything anyone could ever want" with a healthy family, a loving husband, a productive farm and an eighth child on the way.

Then soldiers came in the night and executed her husband in front of her and threatened her children with rape. She soon found that her sister and six-month-old niece had also been killed, forcing her to flee her farm and take refuge over the border to northern Lebanon.

She said: "One night we heard a noise outside, so my husband got up to see what was happening. I sensed that something was not right, so I woke the kids up and took them to the farm. While I was outside, I saw an armed man dragging my husband on the floor and then shooting him. I screamed hysterically at my children to run away.

"The man emptied his bullets into my husband's chest and walked towards me. He said that if I don't leave right now, he will give my daughters to his men and he will make me watch them get raped and tortured. I collapsed on the ground, tears streaming down my face... I crawled towards my husband's body desperately calling his name; I didn't realise that my daughter, Diana, was behind me all the time until I saw her sitting next to her father drenched in blood, crying and calling him to wake up."

When Tayma eventually arrived in Lebanon she was seven months pregnant and "terrified". She is one of 1.3 million refugees in Lebanon, a country with a normal population of less than 4.5 million. Like thousands of vulnerable refugees arriving in the tiny but swollen country, she was forced to live in a shack with no doors, running water or a bathroom. It was only with help from Save the Children that she managed to install windows and a door.

She said: "When I saw the living conditions here, I thought of going back to Syria. But then I figured it's better to live in a stable or an abandoned house than put my children's lives in danger."

JAMIE MERRILL

**We applaud British aid, but aid is not enough**

**The letter**

Dear Prime Minister,

The conflict in Syria has caused the worst humanitarian crisis of our generation and, four years in, is still destroying millions of lives.

At least 3.2 million refugees have fled to neighbouring countries, placing these states under enormous strain.

Britain prides itself on a tradition of offering help to those in need. Over the years we have offered refuge to thousands at risk from war or oppression, reaching out to Vietnamese, Ugandan Asians and Kosovars to offer them a home. Figures released today will show that Britain has only so far resettled around 100 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, a woefully inadequate number compared to the scale of the crisis.

While we applaud Britain's generous aid contribution to the crisis, it is clear that aid alone is not enough. Syria's neighbours are struggling under the weight of this unprecedented crisis and it is time we stopped asking of them what we are not doing ourselves.

We are therefore calling on rich and developed countries to agree collectively to resettle at least 5 per cent of the total Syrian refugee population by the end of 2015. This is a modest but proportionate contribution and Britain's fair share of that would involve offering hope for up to 10,000 Syrians in that time. That's less than 0.3 per cent of all the refugees, but would transform, even save, lives.

Life for the majority of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** is desperate, but some are simply unable to survive in the region. For torture victims, women who have survived sexual violence, sick children who, without treatment, could die, life outside the war is a daily battle. These are the people Britain has promised to help and we must help more of them.

On 9 December, a pledging conference on resettlement will be hosted by the UN High Commission for Refugees in Geneva. Britain should use this opportunity to take the lead alongside other European countries who have pledged to resettle thousands of refugees from Syria.

In this case, numbers speak louder than words. To do anything other than increase our pledge to thousands, not hundreds, would be to send the wrong message to Syria's most vulnerable people, and the countries currently hosting them, all desperately asking for our help.

Kate Allen, director, Amnesty International

Maurice Wren, chief executive, British Refugee Council

Mark Goldring, chief executive, Oxfam

Justin Forsyth, chief executive, Save the Children

Wayne Myslik, chief executive, Asylum Aid

Ratip Alsulaimen, director, British Syrian Education Centre

Chris Bain, director, Cafod

Laurie Lee, chief executive, Care International UK

Paul Valentin, international director, Christian Aid

Tiffy Allen, national coordinator, City of Sanctuary

Dr Carol Homden CBE, director, Coram Children's Legal Centre

Chris Doyle, director, Council for Arab-British Understanding

**Load-Date:** November 26, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Robert Fisk: The 200,000 Syrian child refugees forced into slave labour in Lebanon; While the world obsesses over the atrocities committed by Isis, the  plight of those forced to flee the country has been largely forgotten. Robert Fisk takes a heartbreaking tour of the Sedyanel 7 camp*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DFP-3K21-JCJY-G3NH-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 26, 2014 Sunday 7:05 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 1184 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

Eleven-year-old Abdullah was working on a construction site last week when he accidentally swallowed a rusty nail. He was one of up to 200,000 Syrian refugee children - some as young as five - working in Lebanon's potato and bean fields or picking figs in the Bekaa Valley. Many of them are beaten with sticks in a situation perilously close to slave labour. And when their country's cancerous war ends, they will be the new men and women who will have to return to rebuild their nation.

But they will be half-educated, having lived through their childhood as labourers, sleeping in some of the filthiest camps in the land.

Abdullah was living with his family in a tent in Tel Ferhoun when he swallowed the nail. He didn't tell his parents, as he was afraid they would be angry with him. A fatal mistake. Just before the weekend, he died of tetanus poisoning. Newspapers carried not a word of his passing - after all, Isis supporters are in battle with Lebanese soldiers in the north and the army now claims it is fighting a war against "terrorists". This means that the Lebanese army and the Syrian army and the Egyptian army and bits of the Libyan army and the Algerian army and the Tunisian police are now all claiming they are fighting "terror" - and of course they're all deploying the very same words George W Bush and his British partner-in-crime used before they started smashing up the Middle East 11 years ago. So much, then, for little Abdullah.

Walking around these tented encampments in the Bekaa with Lebanese and Syrian NGOs of outstanding courage and humanity, one can only wonder how such a tragedy can be resolved. Because most of their fathers are in Syria, their mothers burdened by more and more childbirths - one Lebanese doctor has reported delivering a third child to the same Syrian woman refugee since she arrived here - the families need the money. Each camp runs a vicious system of "shawish", a network of venal Syrian supervisors who pay some children only 90p per day. Families have to rent one tent lamp for £6 a month, a portable television for another £6. Some even have to pay £60 a month to live there.

Timeline: The emergence of Isis

One of the shawish, Radwan Abu Khaled, told me he could not afford to pay the children much because he needed the money to hire the tractor that trucks them to the fields each day. In many cases the Syrian shawish rents the land from Lebanese property owners - and has done so as a seasonal worker long before the Syrian war. It is an utterly corrupt system, since it stunts the growth of Syria's next generation and will leave them desperately under-educated when - if - they go home. Alas, it is a worldwide statistic that, of displaced refugees, around 30 per cent never return home. Just don't tell that to the Lebanese.

However, hope there is, of a kind, in the shape of a wonderful Lebanese NGO called Beyond, which works with Unicef and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The boss is Maria Assi from Nabatiyeh (in the south of Lebanon), who must be the most loved woman in the country. Skinny children race to play with her whenever she enters a camp; women almost cry when they smile at her.

She has organised schools in camp after camp and campaigns furiously against child labour, arguing gently with the all-powerful "shawish" exploiters to at least reduce the hours they work so that the children can spend some of the day in school.

When I visited these camps, every child to whom I spoke - from five to 15 - did not want to labour in the fields. They came from all over Syria - one even came from the embattled town of Kobani - and many have wretched stories of blood and fire. One wild-haired little girl who flung herself into Maria Assi's arms lost her mother in childbirth a month ago. The baby also died.

Maria said: "Beyond schools persuade the children to act out their lives - and their paintings have changed subtly: from crayoned corpses with blood spilling from their heads to trees and fruit and children dancing.

Her people even put on a theatrical play about child labour in which the real child workers played themselves in the fields. The "shawish" were themselves invited and 3,000 adult refugees turned up to watch.

"We kept asking Syrians what they needed," Maria Assi says. "Education was their first priority. The schools - in tents, anywhere - was what they wanted. You can see cities destroyed, but you can't have a generation destroyed." Unicef pays for the education, but as yet there is no treatment for traumatised children, no mental health doctors or psychiatrist. Some of the tented encampments are well run - near Zahle, for example, the tents are clean, the ground swept.

But in a ditch beside Fayda 1 camp further north, the carcasses of animals lay rotting a few metres from the tents and children were allowed to play only on a giant pile of red earth near the sewer.

One Unicef official in Beirut spoke movingly to me of how Syrian families had simply spent all their savings.

"When they arrived, they took rented rooms. Then as the money began to get lower, they packed into one room, then they shared the one room with other families - and then went to live in tents. Some had been displaced three times in their own country before coming here." Of course, there are now 1.2 million registered ***Syrian refugees*** in Lebanon - one in every three people in Lebanon is now a Syrian - and at least 15,000 refugee children have been born here. So difficult is the registration that by the end of this year, there could be 30,000 unregistered Syrian child refugees in Lebanon.

When I discussed all this in Beirut with Frank Hagemann, the cheerful German deputy regional director of the ILO, he said that the children need "on the job training and protection in addition to schools", because the reconstruction of Syria will need skills. "We try to put more schools in place to reduce the size of this lost generation. Some children are working 12 to 14 hours a day. Working hours must come down. Let's at least save the children's health." In other words, if child labour cannot be stopped, then the working hours should be reduced and include vocational training.

At present, according to an NGO report last month, Syrian school enrolment in Lebanon is below that of sub-Saharan Africa. And 80 per cent of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** here - this is a Unicef statistic - live in areas inhabited by 68 per cent of the poorest Lebanese.

Meanwhile, the camps are on the move.

When fighting started at Qalamoun in the north, between Syrian troops and Hizballah and Nusra Front rebels, the tents moved south. When fighting started in Qusair, the tents moved again, thousands of them, almost overnight. But the refugees have achieved one grim precedent in Lebanon. When ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** began dying - of ill health or old age - the municipalities refused to bury them in Lebanon's strictly divided cemeteries. But one kind Lebanese donated land near the Syrian border for a mixed Syrian graveyard.

Al-Faour cemetery is thus the only plot in the whole of Lebanon where Muslim and Christian can lie together for eternity.

**Load-Date:** October 26, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Men questioned on suspicion of people smuggling after being rescued from boat off Dover coast; The men say they were 'lost' but are now withthe Border Force*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K21-BH11-JCJY-G39N-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 19, 2016 Sunday 4:01 PM GMT

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**Section:** CRIME

**Length:** 331 words

**Byline:** Jess Staufenberg

**Body**

Two men are being questioned on suspicion of people smuggling after they were rescued from a small boat filled with life jackets off the Kent coast.

The RNLI in Dover was sent out to rescue a small motor cruiser which had been spotted in difficulty at about 8am on Sunday morning.

Inside the 4.5 metre vessel were two men, who told their rescuers they were "lost", and a large number of life jackets but no other occupants.

A spokesperson for Dover Lifeboat Station urged people not to sail at sea without proper equipment.

Read more

French authorities block British aid convoy for Calais refugees at Dover

Refugee crisis: Medical charity MSF rejects funding from UK and other EU nations over 'shameful' response

Refugee children in France being sexually exploited and forced into crime by traffickers, says Unicef

He told

The Independent

: "The persons on board the vesseldid not have any navigation or GPS equipment to navigate safely at sea."

It is understood that both men were transferred to the Border Force, the law enforcement unit within the Home Office responsible for immigration and customs controls.

Their boat has also been handed in as evidence.

In May, apair of British men were charged with people smugglingwhen they were found aboard a rigid inflatable boat with 18 Albanian migrants.

About 5,000 refugees are living in poor conditions in Calais and Dunkirk, having fled war or economic difficulty in the Middle East and Africa.

Other EU nationals live in relative poverty in some parts of Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, Albania and elsewhere.

Since the start of the Syrian war in 2011, the UK government has accepted 1,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and says it will take 20,000 by 2020, at a rate of 4,000 people a year.

Germany has accepted more than 800,000 refugees since the start of the war,which has seen more than one million refugees fleeto Europe.

HM Coastguard has urged people not to make the dangerous trip across the Channel, which has strong currents and a high volume of shipping traffic.

**Load-Date:** June 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian refugee shot by border guards trying to enter Slovakia from Hungary; 'It is outrageous that Slovak authorities are shooting at innocent people fleeing war'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JR8-R0M1-JCJY-G4GT-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 9, 2016 Monday 5:39 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 347 words

**Byline:** Ashley Cowburn

**Body**

Slovakian border officials shot and wounded a Syrian refugee when they opened fired at a car carrying migrants from Hungary into Slovakia, authorities have said.

The unidentified 26-year-old woman is thought to be in a stable condition after undergoing surgery to remove a bullet from her back, according to a hospital in Dunajska Streda, southern Slovakia. The hospital added it had also treated two other migrants suffering from dehydration.

According to

Reuters

it may be the first reported incident inside Europe's passport-free Schengen zone where migrants have been shot at. Just last month Turkish border forces were accused of using live bullets to drive away refugees fleeing violence between so-called Islamic State forces and opposition groups in war-ravage Syria.

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** help Canadian bush fires victims after

The Financial Administration, which runs the customs service in Slovakia, said in statement that officers had stopped four passenger cars entering the country from neighbouring Hungary in the early hours of Monday. Three cars complied with an order to stop but the fourth tried to escape and endangered three officers, it added.

"The officers fired warning shots and when the car did not stop they fired at the car, injuring one person," it added, without elaborating further.

Andrew Stroehlein, Europe media director for Human Rights Watch, told the Telegraph: "It is outrageous that Slovak authorities are shooting at innocent people fleeing war."

He added: "Officials said the car was driving dangerously and endangering their officers but there have to be ways of giving chase to a car without resorting to shooting at it."

Speaking at the time of the incident on the Turkish border, Gerry Simpson, a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, said: "As civilians flee Isis fighters, Turkey is responding with live ammunition instead of compassion.

"The whole world is talking about fighting ISIS, and yet those most at risk of becoming victims of its horrific abuses are trapped on the wrong side of a concrete wall."

Additional reporting by Reuters

**Load-Date:** May 9, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Robert Fisk: The 200,000 Syrian child refugees forced into slave labour in Lebanon; While the world obsesses over the atrocities committed by Isis, the  plight of those forced to flee the country has been largely forgotten. Robert Fisk takes a heartbreaking tour of the Sedyanel 7 camp*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DFV-VBP1-F021-63KB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 27, 2014 Monday 10:01 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 1186 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

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Abdullah was living with his family in a tent in Tel Ferhoun when he swallowed the nail. He didn't tell his parents, as he was afraid they would be angry with him. A fatal mistake. Just before the weekend, he died of tetanus poisoning. Newspapers carried not a word of his passing - after all, Isis supporters are in battle with Lebanese soldiers in the north and the army now claims it is fighting a war against "terrorists". This means that the Lebanese army and the Syrian army and the Egyptian army and bits of the Libyan army and the Algerian army and the Tunisian police are now all claiming they are fighting "terror" - and of course they're all deploying the very same words George W Bush and his British partner-in-crime used before they started smashing up the Middle East 11 years ago. So much, then, for little Abdullah.

Walking around these tented encampments in the Bekaa with Lebanese and Syrian NGOs of outstanding courage and humanity, one can only wonder how such a tragedy can be resolved. Because most of their fathers are in Syria, their mothers burdened by more and more childbirths - one Lebanese doctor has reported delivering a third child to the same Syrian woman refugee since she arrived here - the families need the money. Each camp runs a vicious system of "shawish", a network of venal Syrian supervisors who pay some children only 90p per day. Families have to rent one tent lamp for £6 a month, a portable television for another £6. Some even have to pay £60 a month to live there. In pictures: Syria's escalating refugee crisis

One of the shawish, Radwan Abu Khaled, told me he could not afford to pay the children much because he needed the money to hire the tractor that trucks them to the fields each day. In many cases the Syrian shawish rents the land from Lebanese property owners - and has done so as a seasonal worker long before the Syrian war. It is an utterly corrupt system, since it stunts the growth of Syria's next generation and will leave them desperately under-educated when - if - they go home. Alas, it is a worldwide statistic that, of displaced refugees, around 30 per cent never return home. Just don't tell that to the Lebanese.

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**Load-Date:** October 27, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Witnessing heartbreak and hope at a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan; Silver screen mogul Harvey Weinstein's moving experience at the Zaatari refugee camp*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D7V-DCP1-F021-64XD-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 26, 2014 Friday 5:33 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 1215 words

**Byline:** Harvey Weinstein

**Body**

There are two Champs-Élysées in the world. One is in Paris. It's filled with movie theaters, boutiques, markets, and fantastic restaurants. Two months ago, I found myself walking down the other Champs-Élysées, so nicknamed by aid workers, in the middle of the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan.

Zaatari is a ramshackle city of tents and containers, home to about 120,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. The streets of this Champs-Élysées are lined with makeshift stores. Where the walkways of its Parisian namesake are bordered by street lamps, here electricity is jimmy-rigged and borrowed from street lamps. It was incredible to see an improvised pizza-delivery place, a wedding dress rental shop, and, my personal favorite, a baklava bakery.

The bakery was run by a family of mothers, fathers, grandmothers, grandfathers, and grandchildren, and overseen by several brothers. They had survived the atrocities across the border. They each had unimaginable stories of heartbreak - their houses had been blown up, they saw men shot right in front of them mid-sentence, mid-conversation. What's more, the people who pulled the trigger could equally have been from any side. They not only survived, but also endured to recreate their bakery to feed their fellow refugees. Their pride in their desserts was as tangible as a sculptor's in his creation.

Their generosity was unparalleled. Every time I tried to pay for something, a hand would slap me away. "What, are you trying to insult us? Eat. Enjoy." Whenever I hear someone say "Eat. Enjoy", it reminds me of the way my grandmother spoke to me. It reminds me that we are all the same. We are family.

I came to Zaatari and Jordan to accompany the writer Neil Gaiman and my wife Georgina Chapman, who, together, had been invited by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to create a storytelling project about the plight of the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who had flooded into Jordan.

I met with Queen Rania and asked her why Jordan was so generous with its refugee policy. According to the queen, there are now about 1.3 million Syrians in her country; 630,000 of them are registered as refugees. She said that her husband, King Abdullah II, on seeing women and children fleeing danger, felt that there was really no decision to make, it was the right thing to do, and Jordan will always do the right thing. As a father, a leader, and a humanitarian, King Abdullah II opened his doors. This is not something we would allow in our country or in England. Not on this scale, when the burden on the country's infrastructure and services is almost crippling. It is the sacrifice of the Jordanian people, and those in Syria's other neighboring countries - Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon - that allows for the survival of the ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Queen Rania and I talked about movies and politics, but most importantly about the importance of education and its potential to transform the Arab World. When education comes to the Middle East, and to young women in particular, and they realize they can be what they want to be, the world will grow different.

When the women marched against gun violence in Ireland, the men listened. One hopes the same would happen as women take up more prominent positions in Middle Eastern countries where they are currently oppressed.

The UNHCR briefed us on what was happening inside Syria - about the level of the destruction and the violence that has ravaged the country. Many of the refugees don't know anymore who it was that attacked their village, who kidnapped their friend, who slaughtered their family, who they were running from. The Syrian army, the Free Syrian Army, al-Qaeda, Isis, splinter groups of any and all of them - there are so many factions in play now. Every minute of every day unimaginable acts of cruelty, so dark, so grotesque, are being meted out to innocents across great swathes of their beloved country. What man does to another man never ceases to amaze me.

I listened with Georgina and Neil to a man who was beaten in front of his family - his wife and young children - for over an hour and a half. You could see his mobility had been eviscerated and that a man who needed to be the proud and strong family leader had been brought to his knees by sheer human cruelty. Neil told me about 11-year-old Rania. A mortar fell on her house in the middle of the night. Her father died. Rania and her five sisters lived, but she is missing a third of her jaw. The volunteer medic who attends her had recently run out of painkillers. Our translator said with despairing wonder: "How does she sleep at night?" I do not know how to answer that question, nor do I know how we can sleep at night, when this is happening.

READ MORE:'Boobs on the ground': Fox News responds to UAE's first female pilotEd Miliband calls for UN resolution on military action against IsisDesperate Syrian Kurds in Kobani fear threat of 'massacre'FBI 'identifies' Isis militant Jihadi John

Each tale we heard, each journey, was more harrowing than the last.

The UNHCR. introduced me to a group of young adults learning English, 10 women on one side, 10 men on the other. We talked movies. Their favorite actress? Angelina Jolie. Why? She is a great actress and had also visited the camp twice, unheralded. They love her for her craft, but also for her humanity. I asked about actors. They told me they identified with characters who did the right thing, the hard thing, to make sure good triumphed over evil.

Then they had a question for me: why, after we told the world that chemical weapons were our line in the sand in the Syrian conflict, did we do nothing? America is their movie star. We are their Shah Rukh Kahn, Wahlberg, Cruise, Stallone: the guys who do the right thing. How to explain that after Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. and U.K. became tired? That we do not want to see our own sons and daughters in harm's way?

The work of the UNHCR is filled with a lot of sacrifice and very little thanks. They are building cities in the sand, erecting shelters as quickly as refugees arrive, providing health care, education, water, support, and protection for the millions forced to leave their homes in the biggest humanitarian crisis of our time.

We visited a camp that had opened two weeks before. It was only home to 4,000 refugees. Sadly, and not so slowly, it will undoubtedly fill its capacity to shelter 120,000 refugees. The stories of their various journeys across the border were harrowing - each tale a nightmare. But the "child-safe" areas in the camp were a source of profound inspiration, and hope. Here, children who had only weeks ago been too traumatized by their journey to speak, laughed and played openly.

I watched 10 young kids (more than 50 percent of these camps' populations are children) playing soccer with an imaginary ball. Five against five, screaming and cheering, their imaginations working overtime to create joy in the middle of a desert. The resilience of children is both heartbreaking and uplifting. What I saw on the faces of those soccer players, I knew I would remember long after everything has faded. What has happened here in this desert has brought them the chance to experience joy again. The work isn't done, but it's a hell of a start.

For more info and how to support visit [*www.unhcr.org/neilandgeorgina*](http://www.unhcr.org/neilandgeorgina)

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Most refugees aren't future Olympic athletes: why can't we care about them too?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KF7-N5P1-F072-44N2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

August 11, 2016 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 32

**Length:** 837 words

**Byline:** HOLLY BAXTER

**Body**

Steve Jobs was the child of a Syrian migrant: that fact made its way around the internet at lightning speed when the lifeless body of three-year-old Aylan Kurdi was found washed up on a beach in Turkey. Soon afterward, a Banksy mural appeared in the infamous Calais Jungle camp that depicted Jobs as a refugee newly arrived from Syria.

Six months later, news reports about the 2016 Olympics broke the story of the incredible achievements of the Refugee Team in Rio - achievements such as those of Syrian swimmer Yusra Mardini, who almost died swimming for miles in the Mediterranean sea while pushing an overloaded boat full of fellow refugees when it began to sink, and South Sudanese competitors Rose Nathike Lokonyen and Yiech Pur Biel, who trained barefoot because they didn't have any shoes.

It's true that a potential Steve Jobs or the next Usain Bolt could be languishing away in a refugee camp right now, or about to board an ill-fated boat across the Mediterranean in a desperate attempt to escape an unbearable existence. It's true that the world could be missing out on brilliant technological innovation, or impressive feats of athletic endurance.

Stories such as the death of Samia Omar, a sprinter who represented her home country of Somalia in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and drowned while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea in 2012, underline how tragic such losses can be for humanity as a whole. Omar and many others like her have been denied fantastic careers and the chance to contribute to the life of the international community.

But there's one big problem with this line of thinking. When the Olympics ends, the 2016 refugee team disbands, when people forget the standing ovation in Rio and the heart-warming moment when refugees from a number of countries brandished the Olympian flag together, millions of people will still be making dangerous attempts to reach Europe by land and sea. Still others will be saving up to pay human traffickers to help them and their families escape war-torn countries and persecution. And hardly any of them will be potential Olympic athletes or "the new Steve Jobs".

Most refugees have difficult and disturbing stories to tell. Many of them are severely traumatised; some will have lasting mental health problems as a result of their experiences. They will require financial, medical and emotional support to get back on their feet. Most people who live through adversity don't come out the other side winning gold medals for their countries. Most people don't end up winning gold medals for their country, full stop.

Refugees are not here to provide us with uplifting anecdotes, top-class entertainment and stories that are easily packaged up into self-congratulatory paragraphs about the transformative power of western opportunity. They shouldn't have to be superhuman to deserve our compassion.

Whether we take teenagers crippled by PTSD and injured by shrapnel, or eight-year-olds who could beat Andy Murray at singles, should be immaterial. This is a humanitarian crisis, not a Britain's Got Talent-style audition process.

While the stories of people like Yusra Mardini are incredible, they haven't translated into widespread concern for all refugees. The UN's humanitarian appeal for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, which just started in 2015, ended just 61 per cent funded. Wealthy countries including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Russia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea have offered zero resettlement places to refugees fleeing the Syrian conflict. Meanwhile, Lebanon and Jordan have taken so many people that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** now make up 20 per cent and 10 per cent of their populations respectively, while Germany has taken more than half of the entire EU total.

When you're bombarded with statistics like that, it's easy to suffer empathy fatigue. The images come in so thick and fast that we've become desensitised.

Yes, we've seen the chaotic scenes in Lesbos, the pictures of boats full of soaked and panicking people splashed across front pages, we've nodded our heads at the startling numbers. But all we're talking about now is the sports star who pushed a dinghy for three hours in freezing water while escaping the Syrian conflict. We've stopped mentioning her fellow citizens still in Syria, many of whom face daily bombardment, and those still trying to escape.

We seem to have forgotten that the refugee crisis is everybody's problem. If we want to pat ourselves heartily on the back about Rose Nathike Lokonyen's success, to claim her for one of our own, then we have to claim the refugee crisis for our own as well.

And if the Olympic Games represent countries coming together for a wider cause, if gymnasts from North and South Korea can pose for a selfie together, then surely we can harness some of that spirit in order to acknowledge the most important cause in the world right now.

People are dying - everyday people, most of whom would be as likely to win the 100-metre sprint as I am.

That, without any fantastic tale attached, should matter.

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Swedish women's 'vigilante' patrols accused of neo-Nazi links; The group's co-founder received a suspended prison sentence for taking part in a neo-Nazi attack last year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J6W-WWW1-JCJY-G4C7-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 2, 2016 Wednesday 11:42 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 352 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

The co-founder of a"groping guard" patrolling swimming pools in Sweden is reportedly under a suspended prison sentence for taking part in a neo-Nazi attack last year, it has been reported.

Robert Banderby received the sentence for carrying a knife and violent rallying, after he and other activists from the neo-Nazi Swedish Resistance Movement attacked anti-racist protestors,

the

Daily Telegraph

reports

.

The "Tafsvakten", which roughly translates to "groping guard",was founded bySiri Bernhardsson in the city of Kalmar.

She claimed women are becoming too afraid to visit the city's leisure centre.

Siri Bernhardsson, 24, set up the Tafsvakten group

"It cannot be right that women and families should be too intimidated to go to the swimming pool, of all places. It's not a dark alley or scary nightclub," the group's founder, Siri Bernhardsson,told the

Kvällsposten

newspaper.

The 24-year-old has been accused of vigilantism, racism and xenophobia, as well as inciting hate towards more than 160,000 asylum seekers who arrived in Sweden last year.

The pool's manager, Susanne Gryfelt, did not welcome the intervention.

Read more

Sweden accuses Daily Mail of running anti-refugee propaganda campaign

EU pledges (EURO)700m in extra aid to cope with refugee influx

Reports of armed Calais refugees raises fears of violent clashes

Britain is not taking enough ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, Peter Mandelson says

Saying she had received no reports of women or families feeling too afraid to swim, she added: "We do not want individuals to come in and act as lifeguards,that is our job."

Sweden has the highest number of refugees per capita in Europe and is known for its humanitarian policies, but it is now planning to deport tens of thousands of asylum seekers after introducing border controls and slashing benefits.

Police across Europe have warned against the rise of vigilante groups, which have been linked to attacks on refugees in some areas.

**Load-Date:** March 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: EU agrees to set up new border and coast guard force; New forceis expected to play a crucial role in tackling the current refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J8H-5K61-JCJY-G1KB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 10, 2016 Thursday 8:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 342 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz

**Body**

The European Union has agreed provisional measures aimed at setting up a planned border and coast guard, which is expected to play a crucial role in tackling the current refugee crisis.

The force would include some 1,500 border guards sent to popular landing spots, such as deserted Greek beaches, and would have the power to return undocumented migrants.

"We need this agency to strengthen our external borders and I am pleased with the progress we have made so far," said Dutch security and justice minister Klaas Dijkhoff, who chaired the meeting of EU home affairs ministers in Brussels. He said he was "very optimistic" that the ministers could agree details by April and deploy the force by summer.

Read more

Refugee crisis: Surge in asylum seeker numbers hits G4S profits

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** end up in same hotel as furry convention and love it

UN and Amnesty attack EU's 'short-sighted and inhumane' refugee deal

Angela Merkel heads for loss at polls despite refugee summit claims

The force will have nearly three times the budget of the EU's current border agency, Frontex, with funding worth (EURO)322m (£252m) by 2020.

However, ministers also expressed concern over the EU's planned easing of visa rules for Turkey, part of a deal struck at Monday's summit.

After officials warned that Turkey now only meets half of around 70 technical requirements for visa-free travel, Austrian interior minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner said the deal was "extremely questionable".

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday criticised moves by central European countries to close their borders: "This unilateral decision by Austria and... the Balkan countries on one hand brings us fewer refugees, but on the other hand puts Greece in a very difficult situation."

Nato secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg also said the alliance would add to its five warship in the Aegean Sea to intercept people smugglers.

**Load-Date:** March 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Swedish swimming pool 'vigilante' patrols accused of neo-Nazi links; The group's co-founder received a suspended prison sentence for taking part in a neo-Nazi attack last year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J6X-28J1-F021-64HS-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 2, 2016 Wednesday 11:51 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 352 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

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Read more

Sweden accuses Daily Mail of running anti-refugee propaganda campaign

EU pledges (EURO)700m in extra aid to cope with refugee influx

Reports of armed Calais refugees raises fears of violent clashes

Britain is not taking enough ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, Peter Mandelson says

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Police across Europe have warned against the rise of vigilante groups, which have been linked to attacks on refugees in some areas.

**Load-Date:** March 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*US could 'divide Syria', warns first Western journalist given access to Isis; 'Divided countries are weak countries, and I have an impression that certain American politicians like weak countries in the Middle East'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J70-NMR1-F021-61XM-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 3, 2016 Thursday 3:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 332 words

**Byline:** Matt Payton

**Body**

The first Western journalist to be allowed access to Isis-controlled Raqqa in Northern Syria has warned US intervention could "divide Syria into four or five parts".

Jürgen Todenhöfer, a German journalist and former politician, saidhe was worriedthe United States aimedto weaken Syria as they did to Libya and Iraq.

Mr

Todenhöfer told

Russia Today

the only way to defeat the so-called Islamic State was for the various rebel groups to team up with Bashar Assad's regime instead of continuing the civil war.

Read more

Nasa study finds Middle East is suffering worst drought in 900 years

Britain is not taking enough ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, Peter Mandelson says

British air strikes aren't pushing Isis back in Syria, ministers admit

Saudi Arabia 'trying to destroy fragile truce in Syria'

A shaky cease fire has existed between the Syrian government and rebel brigades since February 27.

This truce is being monitored by a Russia-US task force who jointly brokered the deal.

He said: "

I

f the rebels would start to fight with the official government army, against ISIS, then we would have a chance to defeat ISIS, and to have peace in Syria. It is a dream, but a realistic dream

"The US divided Iraq, they divided Libya, and now they could divide Syria into four or five parts. Divided countries are weak countries, and I have an impression that certain American politicians like weak countries in the Middle East."

Mr

Todenhöfer saidlittlecan be done to prevent further Isis terror attacks in Europe: "

For Isisit is much easier to use the forces they have in EU countries, US or Russia. They have many fans in those countries.

"They don't need to take risks to cross borders - they can do it, but they don't need to. They coordinate themselves - it's not difficult to make a suicide attack. It's cheap and it's easy."

**Load-Date:** March 3, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Kurdish fighters blamed for fatal police base attack*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HVN-X7M1-F072-41J1-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 15, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 28

**Length:** 333 words

**Byline:** LAURA PITEL IN ISTANBUL

**Body**

A baby and two young children were among six people killed when suspected Kurdish terrorists bombed a police compound in south-eastern Turkey.

No group claimed responsibility for the truck bomb that tore through the police station and lodgings on Wednesday night in Cinar, a small town in Diyarbakir province, but the office of the local governor blamed the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The group, which has been battling the Turkish state for more than 30 years, also opened fire on a nearby security complex, according to the governorate. Another police station was attacked with rocket launchers in Mardin province.

The attacks represent an escalation in the conflict between the PKK and Turkish government, which has killed 40,000 people over three decades. The peace process collapsed in July after months of escalating tensions.

The latest attack came less than 48 hours after an Isis suicide bomber killed 11 tourists in Istanbul. The two bombings at opposite ends of Turkey highlight the dual security challenges facing a nation that is seen as a key Western partner in the battle against Isis and in efforts to control the flow of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

They will do little to quell fears that the conflict in neighbouring Syria is making Turkey increasingly unstable.

The success of Kurdish forces in Syria has boosted the confidence of their Turkish counterparts and alarmed the government in Ankara, which fears that Kurdish aspirations could threaten Turkey's territorial integrity.

The PKK, deemed a terrorist group by Turkey, the US and the European Union, argues it is fighting for autonomy within Turkey, and for greater rights for the country's 15 to 20 million Kurds.

Unlike previous outbreaks of violence in the predominately Kurdish south-eastern region, much of the recent fighting has taking place in urban centres after the PKK's youth wing declared "autonomous zones". Civilians have been caught in the middle. A Turkish human rights group recently claimed that 162 had lost their lives.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2016

**End of Document**



[*A year after Alan Kurdi's death, I rescue refugee children making the same treacherous journey every day; An rescue worker writes exclusively for The Independent about life patrolling the Mediterranean*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KKV-D6J1-F021-62HX-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 1, 2016 Thursday 10:24 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 1504 words

**Byline:** Jacob Goldberg

**Body**

It has been a year since three-year-old Alan Kurdi died as his family tried to cross the Mediterranean Sea. Today, children continue to drown alongside thousands of refugees dying in desperate attempts to reach safety in Europe.

Jacob Goldberg, who works on a rescue ship patrolling the Mediterranean Sea operated by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) and

SOS Méditerranée, reflects on three months saving asylum seekers on the deadliest sea crossing in the world.

One boy will always stay with me. For me, he represents the many children and teenagers we meet at sea who are traveling alone. And there are many. Out of the 2,750 people we have rescued since May, over 600 have been under the age of 18 and 89 per cent of those were without a parent or guardian. Totally alone.

Refugees are provided with medical and psychological care once on board (Isabelle Serro/SOS Mediterranee)

Some have been as young as eight years old. This boy was 13 years old and alone. We rescued him from a particularly overcrowded rubber boat and he was terrified. I spotted him standing alone - he told me that he'd lost both his parents in Libya and managed to find his way on to a rubber boat by following some older boys he'd met in the detention center.

Read more

A year on from Alan Kurdi, we continue to ignore the facts

I cannot even fathom what he could have endured making this journey. Beatings and abuse are common for almost all those we speak to. He knew no one in the world, he had nothing but the dirty clothes on his back, he sat small and hunched on the chair in our clinic, he didn't know where we were going or why he'd left his home in Somalia.

I started to explain that we would make sure he was looked after when he arrived in Italy. I asked him if he understood what I was saying. He stayed silent for a moment or two, then he asked if he could have a glass of milk.

We are here because people die crossing the Mediterranean - I have seen it with my own eyes, people who have died a horrific death. A medic like me always goes out for the first approach to see if anyone is need of urgent medical attention.

On this particular day we headed to a rescue of two rubber boats - as is normal. When we arrived the people on the rubber boats were strangely silent, something felt different. When our teams approached they saw a mass of dead bodies floating in a mix of fuel and sea water in the centre of the boat.

The survivors were plastered around the edges, wide-eyed and silent desperately trying to distance themselves from whatever catastrophe had happened. After the rescue we recovered the bodies, 21 women and one man. They were all Nigerian. We later learned that due to the low quality of the rubber boat the plywood floor had cracked and water had started to come in and mix with petrol from the open jerry cans.

Panic had caused a mass of scrambling; fighting for survival, and the more vulnerable people had been crushed and had drowned in the chaos. We recovered the bodies one by one and our doctor estimated their ages at between 16 and 32.

I was terrified that the next one we found would be a child but that day there were no children. It was difficult to identify the bodies. One man was looking for his wife - he looked at the photos we had taken to aid the identification of those who died, he couldn't recognise her. The way these people had died meant they no longer looked like their living selves. But on one photo he stopped: "That's my shirt, she was wearing my shirt," he said as tears were streaming down his face.

That night we thought we lost 124 people in the sea. We finished a rescue at 6pm and we were told about another boat in distress about two hours away. We started heading towards the location at full speed to try to get there before it went dark. Two hours later everyone was up on the bridge with binoculars, desperately searching the horizon for a tiny dot of a boat. As the sun set the mood grew tense. Every person on the boat had their eyes fixed searching.

A boat carrying 124 people had been on the water for more than 20 hours before rescuers spotted it (Peter Eickmeyer/SOS Mediterranee)

As the sun set and the light faded I've never felt hope sink so quickly. We kept looking, it was so dark. You couldn't work out where the sea stopped and the sky started - it was just blackness. We knew they were out there but finding them felt nearly impossible.

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***: How different countries have responded

Watchdog forces Home Office to reveal how few Syrian child refugees it has taken in

Six attempts to flee Turkey, 25 days to cross the border: the journey of two refugees who made it

David Cameron promised to take in 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. What have the Tories actually delivered?

Looking for a tiny pin with a tiny torch in the dark. After hours of zig-zagging the black with the ship's two search lights the captain spotted something - a tiny white dot. As we moved closer it started to come into focus. A rubber boat packed full of people, they were waving at us. Cheers sounded all around the boat as we started donning our lifejackets to go and bring them to safety. The people we rescued were exhausted, hungry, thirsty and truly scared. They had been on the water for over 20 hours.

Some days when we are waiting for a rescue but the sea is too choppy for rubber boats to leave the Libyan shore we spend time doing things around the boat, putting up shade netting, packing rescue kits (we give every rescued person a kit with some food and blanket, some water, socks, a coverall and a towel), training the team on rescue techniques and CPR.

We have a mass casualty plan for what to do in an emergency situation. We teach all the new crew who come on board so everybody knows their job in that event, for example if a boat capsizes during a rescue or we find many people in the water drowning - we have to be prepared for the worst but I really hope we never have to use it.

Thousands of refugees have died this year alone trying to make the treacherous journey across the Mediterranean Sea (Alva White/MSF)

Once we have people on board it takes about 36 hours to reach Italy. We do our best to take care of them, make sure they are dry, safe, have food to eat, a cup of tea, the opportunity to talk and of course medical assistance for those who need.

Not so long ago we had about 250 rescued people on board and the sea was quite rough and got worse throughout the day. It was so bad that nearly everyone started to feel seasick.

I gave out a lot of anti-sea sickness tablets and injections but as the day wore on the waves grew bigger and started crashing over the sides of the ship. All people could do was to find some small dry space and lie down and shut their eyes to try to overcome the nausea.

Everywhere you looked there were people curled up on the floor trying to shake off the nausea, I gave out a lot of vomit bags that day. It's a horrible feeling to not be able to do to more for people when they have suffered so much.

They didn't want to move, or eat, or do anything. As if they hadn't endured enough. The next day we reached the shore and they were faced with the next stage of their difficult journey.

Wooden boats like this one carrying 400 people hold more passengers and can capsize more easily (Ferry Schippers/MSF)

Last week, we rescued a wooden boat. The difference is that there are a lot more people in them and the can easily capsize during a rescue. This one had over 400 people on it.

It was so full all you could see was a face of faces and barely any boat. We started the rescue as quickly as possible as so not to delay - each one of us knowing full well what could happen if things didn't go well.

The risk of the boat unbalancing as people try to get off in haste. There were so many little children on this boat, three babies under one and nine pregnant women.

Read more

12 months ago, Alan Kurdi's lifeless body shocked the world. Britain promised to act. What went wrong?

Alan Kurdi's death did change the world, if only for an all-too-brief time

Alan Kurdi's father condemns politicians for failing to act: 'People are still dying and nobody is doing anything about it'

A year on from the death of Alan Kurdi, we've still not done enough to solve the refugee crisis

The boat had a lower deck where people were crammed inside with little air. Suddenly we heard that water was entering into the hull. I kept thinking "please don't let this boat capsize". Over the radio the rescue team was calling: "We need some more assistance here, there is water entering into the lower deck and we need to get people out now".

Once people get on board Aquarius they are safe. They hugged each other and some were crying. The little children started running around playing with each other while their motherscollapsed in fatigue, overwhelmed with what they'd all just been through. It was such a relief when the last person came on board; smiling at us he firmly shook our hands and hugged everyone.

By Jacob Goldberg, MSF Medical Team leader, on the MV Aquarius

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Tory MP defends faking death threat over Syria air strikes vote; Lucy Allan said she was trying to expose the 'unacceptable' abuse sent to MPs over the Syria vote*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HJV-9781-JCJY-G2R6-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 9, 2015 Wednesday 10:16 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 346 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

A Tory MP has admitted adding a "death threat" toa Facebook post designed to expose the "unacceptable" abuse she received after voting in favour of air strikes in Syria.

Lucy Allan, MP for Telford, posted an email she had received from a disgruntled constituent complaining about her decision but added the words "unless you die" at the bottom of the post.

She defended it by saying her addition had been a threat sent in by another constituent on the same day and justified her decision to post it because it showed examples of the abuse that MPs receive "most days and that most people tolerate silently".

Read more

David Cameron accused of condoning abuse against ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Jeremy Corbyn says bullying has 'no place' in Labour Party

Muslim man has 'no regrets' after declaring 'spiritual jihad' on Isis

Labour MP receives death threat over support for Syria air strikes

The original post, sent by Adam Watling under the pseudonym Rusty Shackleford - the son of Telford & Wrekin Labour councillor Paul Watling - said he had not sent the "unless you die" line.

"It was absolutely not from any of my correspondence to Lucy. I am a peaceful person and would never make a threat of that nature," he told the BBC.

Defending the modification of the email, Ms Allen told the BBC: "I posted actual comments made to me on the same day, although not in the same email. Comments were added to the post as they came in.

I posted them to show examples of the type of unacceptable online abuse that comes in most days and that most people tolerate silently.

"The comments were not posted to discredit any individual. "Rusty" could have been anyone, or a wholly fictional person. he chose to identify himself and came forward with a surname. At that point I took the post down."

Ms Allen has since deleted the Facebook post and has appeared to have deleted her Twitter. She has yet to respond to a request for comment from

The Independent.

**Load-Date:** December 9, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Theresa May to announce task force to crack down on 'most wanted' fraud suspects; Britain's 10 most wanted suspected financial fraudsters will be identified as part of a clamp downby banks and police*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J27-YYY1-JCJY-G079-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 10, 2016 Wednesday 7:29 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 336 words

**Byline:** Hayden Smith

**Body**

Britain's 10 most wanted suspected financial fraudsters will be identified as part of a crackdown by banks and police announced by Theresa May.

The list will be compiled as a result of work by a new joint taskforce to be launched by the Home Secretary on Wednesday as she declares that "fraud shames our financial system".

Read more

MPs urge Theresa May to rewrite key sections of Snooper's Charter

May urged to oppose plans to outlaw charities helping ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Police are going to use volunteers to help combat crime

The taskforce will include representatives of banks, law enforcement agencies and government.

It is being established with the aim of speeding up intelligence sharing between banks and authorities to ensure a more co-ordinated approach to serious and organised crime gangs, whose activities cost Britain at least £24 million a year.

In a speech setting out the scheme later, Mrs May will say: "Our economy relies on the financial system and everyone in this country benefits from its global success.

"But the scale and volume of financial activity also brings serious risks of economic crime and real opportunities for criminals to defraud hardworking taxpayers of their savings and earnings.

"Fraud shames our financial system. It undermines the credibility of the economy, ruins businesses and causes untold distress to people of all walks of life.

"For too long, there has been too little understanding of the problem and too great a reluctance to take steps to tackle it."

The work of the taskforce will include fast-tracking intelligence sharing between banks and law enforcement and the creation of a new top 10 most wanted fraudsters, the Home Office said.

It will also be tasked with identifying intelligence gaps, removing weak links in systems and processes which fraudsters can exploit and taking steps to produce more efficient identification of victims.

Press Association

**Load-Date:** February 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Storm Frank live: 10 people airlifted by Royal Navy helicopter from bus stuck in floods - latest updates; Northern Ireland experienced disruption overnight and more flooding is expected in England and Scotland today*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HRB-P271-F021-64KW-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 30, 2015 Wednesday 5:31 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 403 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

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The head of the Environment Agency is due to visit flood victims after returning from his Christmas holiday in Barbados

Looters have been targeting flood victims' homes in York

Bikers protect Yorkshire homes from looting

Families feel they were 'sacrificed' by authorities

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Storm Frank is heating the North Pole up

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Around 150 flood warnings and alerts are in place

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Please allow a moment for the live blog to load

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"It is impossible to comprehend why anyone would want to bring further suffering to those who are already in a very vulnerable situation."

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In many areas the ground is still saturated from previous downpours and river levels remain at record highs.

Scotland was also bracing itself with Met Office amber "be prepared" warnings issued for today in all mainland regions outside the Highlands.

**Load-Date:** December 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Storm Frank live: 12 people stuck on bus in floodwater - latest updates; Northern Ireland experienced disruption overnight and more flooding is expected in England and Scotland today*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HRB-P271-F021-64KT-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 30, 2015 Wednesday 5:06 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 389 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

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**Load-Date:** December 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Storm Frank live: Thousands of homes hit by power cuts as rain and gales bring more flooding - latest updates; Northern Ireland experienced disruption overnight and more flooding is expected in England and Scotland today*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HRB-HDD1-JCJY-G44F-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 30, 2015 Wednesday 4:48 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 389 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

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**Load-Date:** December 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump: News billionaire is 'nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize' sparks ridicule; Twitter reacts with disbelief over reports of his nomination*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J10-MTR1-JCJY-G2DH-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 4, 2016 Thursday 9:41 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 355 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

Donald Trump reportedly has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize and no-one, it seems, can cope.

On Tuesday, it emerged that Trump's name had reportedly made it onto a list of nominees for the Nobel Peace Prize - alongside figures such as Pope Francis and a campaigner for Isis rape survivors.

The billionaire's name was submitted by an anonymous US politician, according to Kristian Berg Harpviken, a Nobel prize 'watcher' and director of Oslo's Peace Research Institute.

His nomination comes after a series of increasingly divisive pledges from Trump during his campaign for the Republican nomination, such as banning all Muslims from entering the US and suggesting ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** could be a fifth column sent by Isis.

In light of his more inflammatory comments, the general consensus was that his nomination for his "vigorous peace through strength ideology" must be a joke. When it finally sank in that this news was not satire, incredulity was quickly replaced by shock.

Donald Trump is nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. This is it. The world is ending.

- Erin Gray (@erinsway95) February 3, 2016

It's early,but we have our most ridiculous headline of the year

"Donald Trump nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize"[*https://t.co/tfydRWJTV3*](https://t.co/tfydRWJTV3)

- Warren Leight (@warrenleightTV) February 3, 2016

How was Donald Trump nominated for a Nobel Prize ??!! Did I miss something

- Aaron (@ItsAlive\_\_) February 4, 2016

Why is Donald Trump nominated for a Nobelprize when Ben and Jerry made 4 new vegan ice cream flavors which is more good than Trump has done

- Sophia Nelson (@sophiasticated\_) February 4, 2016

@NobelPrize Are you people out of your minds?! #DonaldTrump

- Antonio Arch MCIPR (@antonioarch) February 3, 2016

@NobelPrize Donald Trump? Seriously? Tell me what drugs you are taking because I want to live in a world where he promotes peace too!

- IMPeRIuM (@vimperiumv) February 3, 2016

It may be of some comfort to know that thousands of people are eligible to submit nominations for the Peace Prize and the Norwegian Nobel committee typically receives more than 200 nominations annually.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron urges Labour MPs to defy Jeremy Corbyn and support Isis airstrikes; PM says Government will push ahead with vote despite Mr Corbyn's victory*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXH-G761-JCJY-G35H-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 14, 2015 Monday 4:16 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 328 words

**Byline:** Oliver Wright

**Body**

David Cameron has suggested that Labour MPs should defy their new Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and support the Government in voting for airstrikes against Isis in Syria.

Mr Cameron indicated that despite Mr Corbyn's victory the Government intended to push ahead with a vote in Parliament that authorise airstrikes and provide the first real test of his leadership.

Asked whether Mr Corbyn's victory made airstrikes less likely Mr Cameron replied: "I think that will depend on Parliament. It doesn't necessarily depend on the views of one person."

Read more: RAF airstrike killed two British Isis fightersDavid Cameron draws up 'kill list' of Isis fightersPM under pressure to explain legal basis for drone attack

Mr Cameron insisted that there should be no distinction between a humanitarian response to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and military action.

"We need to do the right thing and that means a comprehensive approach that says you've got to help refugees, you've got to help the political process in Syria to replace that appalling Government and yes you do need to defeat Isil.

"We are doing that directly in Iraq, we're helping others in Syria. Of course that sort of action is not the whole action - you've got to look after the refugees,you need governments that can look after all their people, you need to fight corruption, you've got to do all those things.

"But you shouldn't rule out one part of what is an essential comprehensive solution."

Ancient monuments under Isis threat

Mr Cameron also held out the prospect of a political solution in Syria - after he was urged by the Lebanese Government to soften his hardline stance on Assad.

"Their view like me that the transition required in Syria is a new Government and a transition away from Assad," he said.

"I agree with that. We should continue to talk to neighbouring countries, talk to other powers including the Russians and others, about the pressing need for a Government in Syria that can represent all of the people."

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Storm Frank live: Thousands of homes hit by power cuts as rain and gales bring more flooding - latest updates; Northern Ireland experienced disruption overnight and more flooding is expected in England and Scotland today*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HRB-1FD1-F021-627P-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 30, 2015 Wednesday 1:35 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 375 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** December 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Texas Republican lawmaker Joe Barton calls for social media to be 'shut down' to stop Isis; Representative Barton asked: 'Isn't there something we can do to shut those internet sites down?'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HD6-B291-F021-613D-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 17, 2015 Tuesday 7:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 364 words

**Byline:** Doug Bolton

**Body**

A Republican lawmaker from Texas has suggested that the US government shut down large parts of the internet in order to fight Isis.

During a House committee hearing, Representative Joe Barton said Isis was "really trying to use the internet and all the social media to intimidate and beat us psychologically."

He added: "Isn't there something we can do to shut those internet sites down?"

Since Isis have been known to use Twitter, Facebook and even gaming services like PlaystationNetwork to communicate, shutting down these mediums would involve America somehow destroying large parts of the internet and disruptingservice for over a billion people.

Read more

Paris attacks: Twitter reminds us of Steve Jobs' Syrian family history

As the

Washington Post

reports, 66-year-old Barton later said that such a task would indeed be difficult, because new websites "pop up like weeds".

Nevertheless, he went on to suggest that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) shut down the offending sites, saying: "They're using the internet in an extremely offensive and inappropriate way against us."

Read more

Boko Haram overtakes Isis as deadliest terror organisation

Attacks in Paris: Frenchman Fabien Clain 'identified' in Isis video

David Cameron to seek Parliamentary approval to bomb Isis in Syria

Russia launches cruise missiles at Isis stronghold of Raqqa in Syria

His comments came in a period of American uncertainty over their position towards Isis - after the Islamist group carried out their largest foreign attack yet in Paris, lawmakers in the US are split over the issues of military intervention and expanding intelligence-gathering powers.

A debate has also broken out over America's acceptance of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - since the Paris attacks, more than half of America's state governors have announced they oppose letting refugees into their states.

Whether or not shutting down websites would be wise, the American government neither has the authority or the capability to track down and disable every single website used by Isis.

**Load-Date:** November 17, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Storm Frank live: 12 people stuck on bus in floodwater - latest updates; Northern Ireland experienced disruption overnight and more flooding is expected in England and Scotland today*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HRB-P271-F021-64KV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 30, 2015 Wednesday 5:12 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 403 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

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**Load-Date:** December 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Breastfeeding woman dragged from refugee sit-in protest; The woman said of the incident: 'There are far worse things going on in detention camps'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9S-XXT1-F021-62KX-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 6, 2015 Friday 7:18 AM GMT

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**Section:** AUSTRALASIA

**Length:** 367 words

**Byline:** Olivia Blair

**Body**

A woman was dragged from a refugee sit-in protest by police while breastfeeding her son.

Video footage shows the woman, known as Jill, being removed from the Immigration Department offices in Melbourne after participating in the sit-in.

The woman was part of the groupFamilies, Friends and Feminists Against Detention (FFFAD) who held a 'Pram Jam' at the offices to support a Somalian refugee who was allegedly raped on the island of Nauru, where many asylum seekers are held.

The group state on their Facebook page they want the woman "to be give permanent resettlement options in Australia with her family".

Jill told

Buzzfeed

: "I took my 22 month old son Manny to a protest... I was breastfeeding him when the police came in to remove us, and I continued while they carried me out."

She reportedly said of the incident: "There are far worse things going on in detention camps."

"It raises the question, why are my son's feelings so important, while the well-being of children in detention is a matter of indifference?" she said.

The protest was in support of a refugee woman who was allegedly raped while being held on the Pacific island of Nauru.

According to the

BBC

, the Australian government said she could come to the country to terminate the pregnancy, however later left without doing so.

Read more

'Disgusting' police behaviour during student protest angers public

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

Asylum seeker finds 'human teeth' in meal in detention centre off Aust

There are conflicting reports as to whether this was disallowed by the government, they state that the refugee changed her mind - which she denies.

According to

Buzzfeed

, she is now in an Australian hospital.

A spokesperson for Victoria police told

The Independent:

"The woman's actions were inappropriate and attending police were more than reasonable in their requests, providing the woman ample time and opportunity to leave before they had to escort her away."

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Huffington Post accused of 'poor judgement' after appearing to identify Zayn Malik as an Isis militant; The image of the former boy bandmember appeared above a story about the notorius jihadist group*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HDV-7M81-F021-626M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 20, 2015 Friday 6:34 PM GMT

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**Section:** MEDIA

**Length:** 380 words

**Byline:** Alexandra Sims

**Body**

The Huffington Post has apologised after apparently identifying former One Direction star Zayn Malik as a member of Isis.

The news website published the image abovea podcast entitled "

What ISIS wants: To destroy the 'gray zone of coexistence

'".

While Malik is mentioned briefly as an aside in the podcast and in one sentence of the accompanying article, many social media users criticised the decision - prompting an apology on the website's Twitter account.

We apologize for the original image here. Zayn Malik is mentioned in the story, but is obviously not part of ISIS. pic.twitter.com/CzEaDwxs3y

- Huffington Post (@HuffingtonPost) November 20, 2015

Alongside the apology was a clarification that Malik is "obviously not part of Isis" along with a picture of their original mistake.

The gaffe was spotted by thousands of twitter users, with the post receiving more than thousand retweets and over 600 likes.

Read more

CNN journalist suspended after tweeting support for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Huffington Post's Arabic edition not keen on selfies or gay people

Debate: The Huffington Post is to ban anonymous comments. Is this a

Hundreds ridiculedthe apology, accusingthe website of "poor judgement."

David AGraham said: "It's cool how you have deleted and apologized for it, but the screenshot still makes for great #shareable #content."

@HuffingtonPost @coreykindberg that actually just made it worse

- nately (@nately) November 20, 2015

@HuffingtonPost It's cool how you have deleted and apologized for it, but the screenshot still makes for great #shareable#content

- David A. Graham (@GrahamDavidA) November 20, 2015

@coolbreeeze\_ Idk if he was an actual HuffPo employee or just a blogger, either way stupid clickbait tactic and poor judgement

- Tim Fitzgerald (@tim\_\_fitzgerald) November 20, 2015

Yes, @huffingtonpost, retweeting very same headline, with the very same image, is exactly what was needed. Try again. And mean it this time.

- Adriana Kilam (@Tanhi\_San) November 20, 2015

Another user, named Nately, posted:"That actually just made it worse."

**Load-Date:** November 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron reported to police as 'war criminal' for bombing Syria; Members of the Scottish Resistance groupclaimed the Prime Minister had broken theThe Kellogg-Briand Pact, an obscure intenational agreement signed in 1928*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HJM-B2C1-JCJY-G37J-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 8, 2015 Tuesday 9:48 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 335 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

David Cameron has been reported to police as a "war criminal" by a trio of Scottish independence campaigners

for authorising air strikes in Syria.

Members of the Scottish Resistance group walked into Rutherglen police station, near Glasgow, and handed an official complaint to an officer claiming that he had breached an obscure international agreement signed after the First World War.

The complaint, first reported by

Buzzfeed News,

states that"by authorising the bombing of Syria, David Cameron, the prime minister, has breached international law".

Read more

Boris Johnson disputes David Cameron's 70,000 Syria claim

Syria's Assad mocks Cameron 'farce' and say UK air strikes will fail

David Cameron accused of condoning abuse against ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Facebook users reporting David Cameron's air strikes post

James Scott, who leads Scottish Resistance, toldthe police officer:"We're here to make a criminal complaint against the prime minister of the UK, David Cameron.

"He's gone to war in breach of international law - in 1928, a treaty was made called the Kellogg-Briand Pact. It was a treaty to end all war, a renunciation of war, this is the truth."

A video of the complaint was posted on Youtube:

The Kellogg-Briand Pact, otherwise known as the Paris Pact,was signed in 1928 by Germany, France and the United States, with the United Kingdom joining a year later.

It committed nations not to use war to resolve"disputes or conflicts of whatever nature or of whatever origin they may be, which may arise among them".

However it had little effect in stemming the rise of militarism in the 1930s.

David Cameron praises individual who said 'You ain't no Muslim, bruv'

Speaking outside the police station,Mr Scott said he was proud to have declared Mr Cameron as a "war criminal" and said he hoped the complaint would be "properly investigated".

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Jennifer Lawrence believes Donald Trump's campaign is a stunt to get Hillary Clinton elected; 'If Donald Trump becomes president, that will be the end of the world'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H2B-46M1-JCJY-G1TJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 2, 2015 Friday 9:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 333 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

Jennifer Lawrence is so concerned by the thought of Donald Trump's Presidential bid that she is now turning to the much bandied about conspiracy theory that his Republican nomination was orchestrated to ensure Hillary Clinton is elected as President.

Trump's campaign has been marked by hiscontroversial, provocative and often disparagingstatements targeting ethnic minorities, women, and anyone who opposes him("moron", "loser", "idiot" etc). His offensive culminated on Wednesday with his vow to deport all ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** back to a country ripped apart by conflict because "they might be Isis" on Wednesday. Yet the billionaire continuesto emerge as the frontrunner in the racedespite the constant stream of outrage he provokes.

Clearly perturbed by the prospect ofthis man becoming America's elected leader, Lawrence insisted his campaign could not be genuine.

"If Donald Trump becomes president, that will be the end of the world," she told

Entertainment Weekly

.

"I genuinely believe that reality television has reached the ultimate place where now even things like this might just be for entertainment."

Her

Hunger Games

co-star Josh Hutcherson was even more forthright. "It's a publicity stunt," he insisted. "It can't be real."

Lawrence went on: "It's either that or it's Hillary's brilliant idea...I was watching him on the campaign trail and one guy said, 'I love Donald Trump because he's saying everything I'm thinking and I just can't say it because of the PC factor.' And I'm thinking, 'You are absolutely right. That's who I want representing my country, somebody politically incorrect. That will just be perfect.'

Breaking Bad

actor Bryan Cranston was one of those people who believes Trump's campaign is refreshing, praising his "candour" and his, "you're an idiot, I'm a winner, you're a loser" attitude.

"There's something great about his 'I don't give a s\*\*t' attitude that really kind of keeps others honest," he said in August.

**Load-Date:** October 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Squalid migrant camps in Calais 'a living reproach to Europe', says UN envoy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H40-K6C1-F072-406P-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

October 10, 2015 Saturday

Second Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 340 words

**Byline:** ANDY McSMITH

**Body**

Conditions in the migrant camps in Calais are "a living reproach to European society" and to the UK's refusal to take its fair share of refugees, the UN Special Representative on International Migration has said.

Peter Sutherland castigated the governments of the UK, France and several Central and East European states for their seeming failure to understand the desperate plight of refugees fleeing war zones.

A visit to the camps in Calais had left him wondering if the squalor he saw there was a deliberate ploy to discourage others from trying to find refuge in the UK.

Speaking at a conference on boat migrants at University College Dublin, Mr Sutherland said yesterday: "The conditions in which the migrants were living were truly shocking. Doctors there told me of clear evidence of TB and scabies.

"This is a disgrace. It is also a clear example of the broader inadequacies in Europe's practical expression of its much-vaunted values.

"These poor people, determined to reach Britain, and having already endured dreadful hardships to get to Calais, are stuck. The site is a living reproach to European society - a desperate place populated by desperate people."

Mr Sutherland added: "The numbers in the camp are only about 3,000 and could be easily handled. Are they being kept in squalor to put off others? Is improving their condition seen as a potential 'pull factor'?

"This logic is almost as obscene as the suggestion that saving lives in the Mediterranean might tempt others to come. The reality is that the issues surrounding the mobility of mankind in an era of global communications of all kinds require far more than the pandering to the xenophobia and racism increasingly evident in parts of the developed world."

The Mid Kent MP Helen Whately, one of three MPs who travelled to Calais to take aid donations to inhabitants, said conditions there were "bad and getting worse".

David Cameron has promised that the UK will take 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over the next five years, but will only take those who are in camps in the Middle East.

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Hundreds of thousands of failed asylum seekers could be deported under secret EU plans; The proposals could lead to EU states detaining thousands of economic migrants*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H3D-05B1-JCJY-G0B0-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 7, 2015 Wednesday 9:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 379 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

Hundreds of thousands of failed asylum seekers could be deported from Europe within weeks, according to leaked secret plans.

Under the proposals, Brussels will threaten to withdraw aid, trade deals and visa arrangements if countries such as Niger and Eritrea refuse to take back their economic migrants.

The proposals could lead to EU states detaining thousands of economic migrants to prevent them from avoiding deportation,

according to the

secret plans

leaked to

The Times

.

Read more

Theresa May to overhaul asylum seeker process

Glasgow becomes first UK city to accept new ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Magistrate suspended for offering to pay court charge quits

UK man's new boat design preventing asylum seekers from drowning

The EU takes its first steps to bring order to its refugee policy

More than 400,000 people who entered the EU in the first half of this year are expected to have their asylum claims rejected.

Home Secretary Theresa May is expected to back the plan despite Britain being a non-Schengen country, according to

The Times

, especially if it means camps in Calais will be cleared as a result.

Under the proposals, a special unit of the EU border agency, Frontex, will be created to assist with deportations.

Countries which do not enforce international refugee rules by deporting "irregular migrants" could face legal action and fines from the European Commission.

"Increased return rates should act as a deterrent to irregular migration," the document reportedly says.

"Member states must systematically issue return decisions, take all necessary steps to enforce them and provide adequate resources, necessary for identifying and returning illegally staying third-country nationals."

It adds: "While member states are primarily responsible for carrying out returns, the immediate creation of a dedicated return office within Frontex should enable it to scale-up its support to facilitate, organise and fund return operations."

Yesterday, Ms May called for a new deportation system to return failed asylum seekers who do not have their passports.

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Jennifer Lawrence believes Donald Trump's campaign is a stunt to get Hillary Clinton elected; 'If Donald Trump becomes president, that will be the end of the world'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H2B-46M1-JCJY-G1TH-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 2, 2015 Friday 9:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 335 words

**Byline:** Heather Saul

**Body**

Jennifer Lawrence is so concerned by the thought of Donald Trump's Presidential bid that she is now turning to the much bandied about conspiracy theory that his Republican nomination was orchestrated to ensure Hillary Clinton is elected as President.

Trump's campaign has been marked by a number of controversial, provocative and often offensive statements targeting ethnic minorities, women, and anyone who opposes him("moron", "loser", "idiot" etc). His offensive culminated on Wednesday with his vow to deport all ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** back to a country ripped apart by conflict because "they might be Isis" on Wednesday. Yet the billionaire continuesto emerge as the frontrunner in the racedespite the constant stream of outrage he provokes.

Clearly perturbed by the prospect ofthis man becoming America's elected leader, Lawrence insisted his campaign could not be genuine.

"If Donald Trump becomes president, that will be the end of the world," she told

Entertainment Weekly

.

"I genuinely believe that reality television has reached the ultimate place where now even things like this might just be for entertainment."

Her

Hunger Games

co-star Josh Hutcherson was even more forthright. "It's a publicity stunt," he insisted. "It can't be real."

Lawrence went on: "It's either that or it's Hillary's brilliant idea...I was watching him on the campaign trail and one guy said, 'I love Donald Trump because he's saying everything I'm thinking and I just can't say it because of the PC factor.' And I'm thinking, 'You are absolutely right. That's who I want representing my country, somebody politically incorrect. That will just be perfect.'

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"There's something great about his 'I don't give a s\*\*t' attitude that really kind of keeps others honest," he said in August.

**Load-Date:** October 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Could the refugee crisis really break up the European Union?; More than a million migrants and refugees came to Europe last year, mostly via Turkey*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HXC-V6Y1-JCJY-G463-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 23, 2016 Saturday 1:29 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 825 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz

**Body**

Today's 43 new deaths by drowning in the Aegean Sea brought Europe's migration crisis sharply back into focus just as the French Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, warned that unless the flow of refugees is better managed, it could cause the break-up of the European Union.

How serious is the refugee crisis?

More than a million migrants and refugees came to Europe last year, mostly via Turkey. Although winter was expected to slow the pace, 35,000 have arrived in the first three weeks of January, compared with 1,600 for the whole month last year.

How has the EU responded?

Read more

45 refugees drown trying to reach Greece in two overloaded boats

There have been many initiatives since last spring, and EU leaders have discussed the issue at six separate summits, but most measures have been inadequate or slow, or both. They include relocation and resettlement efforts, a new border control police, and a deal with Turkey to stop refugees heading to Europe.

What went wrong with relocation?

The plan to relocate 160,000 people more evenly across the EU was immediately controversial, as eastern countries like Hungary pointed out that refugees wanted to go to Berlin, not Budapest. The results are pitiful: only 331 have been relocated since September. The plans to resettle refugees from outside Europe have not been much better: only 779 of the 5,331 due in 2015 had been effectively resettled.

What is being done to police the EU's borders?

Last month, EU leaders backed plans for a European Border and Coast Guard, aimed mainly at Greece and Italy, where most refugees have landed. It would ensure asylum-seekers are screened and register before a decision is taken on whether they can stay. It will come too late for most leaders. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said: "We need to get a grip on this issue in the next six to eight weeks."

Can Turkey help?

The EU signed a (EURO)3bn (£2.3bn) deal with Turkey aimed at stemming the flow. Turkey is hosting 2.2 million refugees from Syria, Iraq and other war zones. But EU finance ministers have yet to agree who should pay; EU officials complain Turkey is not playing its part and Ankara says the (EURO)3bn isn't enough.

Does migration hurt Europe?

Economically, it is a boon: an IMF report on Wednesday said EU states that take in the most people will get the biggest windfall - worth an extra 1.1 per cent growth in Austria, Germany, and Sweden by 2020. Migrants may also fill the demographic shortfall from Europe's shrinking population. The EU's active labour force of 240 million would fall to 207 million by 2050, even if migration runs at the present level. If it halts, the workforce would shrink to 169 million.

Why did Germany open and then close its doors?

The German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, earned world-wide praise for inviting ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to come to her country. But a political backlash at home forced her to change tack, closing Germany's borders. The mood has further soured after New Year's Eve assaults on women in Cologne, blamed on Muslim migrants.

Will the crisis bring Europe's borders back?

The passport-free Schengen zone across much of the EU is being severely tested. Six countries - Austria, Germany, France, Sweden, Denmark and non-EU member Norway - have reintroduced temporary border checks. The European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker warns dismantling Schengen would cost £2.3bn a year in lost business. The European Council President Donald Tusk says unless the EU makes progress in the next two months, Schengen could fail.

What about Greece, the weak link in the refugee trail?

Read more

Petition says Emma Watson should spend a week in Calais migrant camp

Four ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** welcomed to UK after landmark legal ruling

The Calais Jungle isn't a refugee camp, it's a camp full of refugees

Under EU rules, asylum-seekers must register in the first safe country they reach. But this "Dublin" regulation put huge administrative burdens on Greece and Italy, and is widely ignored: most refugees arrive on deserted beaches and travel by land to countries like Germany and Sweden. A rule change due in March may replace this with a quota system.

Would this mean more migrants come to Britain?

It's unlikely to affect the relatively few asylum-seekers who enter the UK, which has no land border with Europe and retains border checks. Britain has an opt-out on asylum policy, so could choose not to apply it. Britain's share of asylum claims has fallen to 3.5 per cent last year. But it would mean renegotiating the associated rules under which Britain returns 1,000 migrants a year to the country where they first arrived.

Could this all affect Britain's renegotiation with the EU?

David Cameron aims to cut the number of EU citizens travelling to Britain to work, not asylum-seekers. But the crisis plays into the hands of those seeking the UK's withdrawal.

**Load-Date:** January 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Local councils to offer sanctuary to Syrians fleeing conflict, says Yvette Cooper; At least 40 councils have responded to request by shadow home secretary that they each accept 10 families fleeing war-ravaged Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVJ-X261-F021-63N2-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 7, 2015 Monday 7:39 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 322 words

**Byline:** Alexander Sehmer

**Body**

At least 40 local councils are ready to offer sanctuary to refugees fleeing conflict in Syria, according to Labour leadership hopeful Yvette Cooper.

Ms Cooper, who is shadow home secretary, had called on councils to each accept 10 families. The 40 responded within 24 hours, she said.

"There is a real determination and rising sense of moral purpose across Britain to help desperate families. But now the Prime Minister needs to match it," she said.

Read more:Aylan Kurdi laid to rest in KobaniCartoonists respond to Aylan Kurdi's deathRefugee crisis reveals EU faultlines

The UK is expected to take in "thousands more" ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** following an announcement by Prime Minister David Cameron.

Mr Cameron said the UK would act with "our head and our heart" with a major expansion of an existing programme to resettle vulnerable refugees from the camps bordering Syria.

But the Local Government Association (LGA) warned that Whitehall would need to provide additional funding.

David Simmonds, from the LGA's asylum, refugee and migrant task force, said councils in England were currently taking 2,000 unaccompanied refugee children a year at a cost of £50,000 for each child.

A further £150 million-a-year was being spent on destitute families who had had their asylum applications turned down but who remained in the UK.

In an interview with the Today programme on BBC Radio 4 he said: "If we are going to scale those numbers up significantly we need to make sure that those kinds of resources are available to England's councils and also other public services to make sure that we have what is required in terms of school places, hospital beds, GPs that sort of thing."

The exact number of refugees the UK will accept has not yet been decided, but Mr Cameron made clear they would come from camps bordering Syria rather than from among those already crossing Europe.

(Additional reporting by agencies)

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Private landlords urged to provide quality housing to UK-bound refugees; Citizens UK is calling for 10,000 private landlords to provide quality housing for refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWP-4WS1-JCJY-G4H8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 10, 2015 Thursday 7:25 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 333 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill

**Body**

Thousands of private landlords will need to step forward to provide accommodation for refugees if the Government is to have any hope of resettling up to 20,000 refugees, campaigners have warned.

Citizens UK is calling for 10,000 private landlords to provide quality housing for refugees after a U-Turn by David Cameron expanded a Government scheme for resettling vulnerable refugees to take 20,000 in five years.

Under the existing Home Office scheme, more than a dozen councils have already made offers to resettle ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** or have already been doing so. However, Citizens UK is warning that local councils "desperately need landlords" to agree to help house new arrivals. George Gabriel, a campaigner with a coalition of faith groups and grassroots activists, said an "outpouring of support from the public" had encouraged local authorities to act, but that there was a critical shortage of suitable accommodation.

The pressure group is calling for landlords to offer family-sized rental properties on three-year tenancies to provide "stable" accommodation for refugees. Crucially, landlords would need to agree to rent being paid at the Local Housing Allowance Rate paid, which is often below the market rate in some areas.

Read more: Comment: Thank God for Germany taking responsibilityEurope newspapers urge governments to act now in open letter20 Syrian children deported by the UK since start of warMap shows why some European countries love asylum seekers

The rent will be paid by local councils, who get Home Office funding for the first year, or under a EU scheme for placing vulnerable refugees.

So far, 464 landlords have signed up the scheme, including Ky Le Vuong, 36, a partner in a letting agency who owns several properties outside of Glasgow. She told The Independent: "My family were refugees from Vietnam and if they hadn't been able to come here, I wouldn't be in a position to be able to give back these opportunities."

Click here to sign The Independent's Change.org petition

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Slovakia will only accept Christian migrants; Interior Ministry spokesman says: 'How can Muslims be integrated if they are not going to like it here?'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GR6-1S91-F021-64N9-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

August 20, 2015 Thursday 5:21 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 341 words

**Byline:** Alexandra Sims

**Body**

Slovakia has announced it will only accept Christian migrants when it takes in ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** under an EU relocation plan.

Interior Ministry spokesman Ivan Metik said the Eastern European nation will accept 200 Christian migrants from camps in Turkey, Italy and Greece, as Muslim migrants would not integrate as easily into Slovakia's predominantly Christian population.

Metik told the BBC: "We could take 800 Muslims, but we don't have any mosques in Slovakia, so how can Muslims be integrated if they are not going to like it here?"

He added that the country wanted to assist Europe during this wave of migration but that Slovakia was a "transit country" where people did not want to relocate to permanently.

In July, EU member states agreed to take in 32,000 asylum seekers arriving in to Italy and Greece during the next two years; a figure significantly less than the 40,000 target.

The scheme was made voluntary after some nations declined to meet set quotas.

At least 264,500 refugees and migrants have crossed the Mediterranean so far this year, according to the United Nations refugee office, predominantly from Syria, a Sunni Muslim majority country, Afghanistan and sub-Saharan Africa.

Most have arrived on the shores of Greece and Italy before travelling onto other areas.

Read more: EU migrant crossings reach record 107,000 for July The 'tragic' plight of migrants arriving on the beach among tourists and posh hotelsNumber of asylum seekers in Germany could swell to 750,000 this year

Recent data from the UN Refugee Office shows that as of 14 August, 158,456 refugees and migrants had arrived in Greece by sea, while 1,716 had entered by land through Turkey.

"The pace of arrivals has been steadily increasing in recent weeks," said William Spindle, a spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, adding that more migrants had arrived in Greece during July than during the whole of last year.

EU Commission spokeswoman Annika Breithard emphasised that EU states were prohibited from any form of discrimination, according to the BBC.

**Load-Date:** August 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: First of the 20,000 Syrian asylum-seekers the UK promised to take in have arrived; The expanded resettlement programme is beginning*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H07-S891-JCJY-G153-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 23, 2015 Wednesday 10:47 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 329 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

The first ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** coming to Britain as part of the Government's new resettlement programme have arrived in Britain.

The Home Office confirmed that the refugees had arrived in the UK but did not give details about how many had been admitted or where they were located.

The refugees are drawn from camps bordering the war-torn country rather than anyone who had made progress travelling to Europe on their own accord.

David Cameron said the UK's expanded vulnerable person resettlement scheme would take 4,000 refugees a year over the next five years, a total of 20,000.

He has however previously warned that the UK cannot take "more and more" people - despite the UK's contribution being significantly smaller than other similarly sized countries'.

Germany could take up to a million refugees this year, according to the country's vice chancellor.

The UK is not participating in a European Union plan to relocate 120,000 refugees who are already in the continent.

Those people will be moved from mainly southern European countries like Greece and Hungary, where large numbers of refugees have travelled.

They will be redistributed to other countries in order to take the strain off places on the route into Europe.

EU interior ministers approved the plan today but the Commission confirmed that participation in the scheme would be effectively voluntary.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

The arrival of the first vunerable people from Syria follows a broad-based campaign, including by the Independent, for the Government to take in more refugees.

A Home Office spokesperson said: "We are working closely with the with UNHCR and local authorities to make sure we are ready to welcome more Syrians who desperately need our assistance.

"Today a number of people have arrived in the UK as part of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme. As the Prime Minister announced earlier this month, we will resettle 20,000 Syrians over the course of this Parliament through this scheme."

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Indyplus video: Syrian refugees across the border*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5B9P-DP61-DXDT-653M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 17, 2014 Friday 7:50 PM GMT

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**Section:** INDEPENDENT PLUS

**Length:** 44 words

**Body**

Thousands of Syrians have fled over the border with Turkey in recent days after clashes between rival rebel groups. Ibrahim, an Al-Nusra rebel smuggler, helps refugees cross over illegally. Watch him explaining why he does it and how Syrians escape to survive below:

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: two Syrian men beaten with baseball bats by masked gang in Germany; The unidentified men were attacked outside their shelter in the northern town of Wismar*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H8R-WX71-F021-616J-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 1, 2015 Sunday 2:29 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 332 words

**Byline:** Caroline Mortimer

**Body**

Two ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** were beaten with baseball bats by a group of masked attackers in the north eastern German town of Wismar.

Police in the nearby town of Rostock said the two unidentified men were standing outside their refugee shelter on Saturday night when the group of masked men started harassing and beating them.

The men have been taken to hospital where they were treated for their injuries.

Police say the attackers fled the scene and they have been unable to track down or identify the perpetrators.

They did not say how many people had been involved in the attack.

Read more

Angela Merkel's allies could desert her over refugee policy

German police spray protesters with water cannon in Cologne

Germany to fast track deportations so it can accept more refugees

It is the latest in a string of attacks onrefugees in Germany as the tide of public opinion begins to turn against them.

Last week, German police announced they had foiled a neo-Nazi plot to bomb a refugee centre in the city of Bamburg in Bavaria.

According to figures released by the Associated Press, there have been more than 576 crimes against or around refugee shelters so far this year - three times as many as in all of 2014.

According to a government report leaked earlier this month, Germany could see an influx of 1.5m new refugees by the end of the year.

In the summer, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced an open-door policy forpeople making the perilous journey across Europe and the Middle East.

She was then forced to reintroduce border controls as the numbers increased and her approval ratings dropped.

A rally organised by far-right group Pegida (Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West) in the city of Dresden to mark their first anniversary attracted 15-20,000 supporters earlier this month as attitudes harden towards the new arrivals.

Additional reporting by AP

**Load-Date:** November 1, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The Syrian artist who superimposes Western masterpieces onto bombed buildings; Tammam Azzam hopes his use of identifiable artworks will 'draw attention to the tragedy' of the Syrian conflict*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW7-N331-F021-612C-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 8, 2015 Tuesday 4:39 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 331 words

**Byline:** Daisy Wyatt

**Body**

Syrian artist Tammam Azzam has found his own way of speaking out against the Syrian crisis. Using famous paintings from the Western world projected against bombed buildings, Azzam aims to "draw attention to the tragedy of Syria".

His most popular work, "Freedom Graffiti", shows Gustav Klimt's well-known painting "The Kiss" superimposed onto a bombed Syrian building.

"I chose it as an icon of love, a way of looking for the stories of love behind this wall that was completely obliterated by the machinery of war," he said.

Azzam, who is one of the artists currently exhibiting at Banksy's latest UK show Dismaland, has drawn on a number of famous paintings from the likes of Matisse, Goya and Dali in his work.

He says there is an "element of critique" in his use of Western masterpieces, but his main emphasis is to show "we are all citizens of the same world".

In addition to Dismaland, Azzam has donated work for exhibition ART4PEACE in London, including an image of a bombed Syrian building being transported by balloons in front of a burning 9/11 tower.

"The event was one of the most dramatic and tragic events of our lifetime, but the lack of empathy and assertive action for the other acts of terrorism and humanitarian disasters around the world troubles me," he says of the work.

"Empathy should not be limited to the first world."

Azzam, who left Syria for Dubai, also hopes the international community will do more to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

"People are truly desperate, they feel like they have nothing to lose, they would rather take the risk drowning in the Mediterranean than to stay and suffer under the dual persecution of Assad's forces and the Islamic State.

"Most have no other recourse; they just want to stay alive. We don't want to be a burden we just need help from the international community."

ART4PEACE runs until 12 September at The Old Truman Brewery, east London. Opening times: 10am-8pm. [*www.talkingpeacefestival.org*](http://www.talkingpeacefestival.org).

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Germany's 'welcome culture' fades as refugees keep coming*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H3J-MGH1-JCS0-D3WD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

October 8, 2015 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 24

**Length:** 851 words

**Byline:** TONY PATERSON IN PASSAU

**Body**

Inside a converted Oktoberfest beer tent at the back of Passau's train station 300 bewildered and exhausted refugees sat penned behind steel barriers as they awaited so-called "Fast ID" registration.

They were the latest to arrive in the German town on Austria's border which has become one of the main entry points for migrants. As two young voluntary workers tried to hand out drinks, a group of Syrians and their small children suddenly stood up and started to move towards the beer tent door and a waiting bus outside.

But this act of apparent insubordination was too much for one uniformed police officer, who leapt on to a bench and screamed: "Sit down! Don't move!" Worn out by weeks of refugee duty, his temper had snapped. The refugee children started crying.

Passau's railway station has a sign proclaiming: "Refugees Welcome". But apart from the police, there was no one to greet the thousands of migrants arriving this week. "It's not like a month ago when lots of ordinary people would come and applaud when they arrived," admitted Commissioner Albert Poerschke, the city's police spokesman on refugees. "The welcome culture seems to have evaporated. We waiting for the rest of Europe to help us solve the crisis," he told The Independent.

The absence of this "welcome culture", which Chancellor Angela Merkel called for at the start of the refugee crisis in September was also palpable on the streets of Passau - an idyllic 18th-century Danube town dubbed "Bavaria's Venice". Anton, a hotel receptionist, who did not want to reveal his surname was adamant: "Of course we have to help them, but I think we will lose our German culture if they don't stop coming in. It is too much. Maybe we would build a wall around Passau," he told The Independent.

Since Germany started introducing police controls on its borders with Austria and the Czech Republic in mid-September, the Bavarian border towns of Passau and Rosenheim have borne the brunt of Germany's refugee influx. According to a leaked government report, the number of asylum applications is expected to reach 1.5 million this year - almost double the estimated 800,000.

Bavaria alone has taken in 225,000 refugees since the beginning of September. Almost half have passed through Passau, which is accepting between 1,000 and 5,000 new arrivals each day. Jürgen Dupper, the city's Social Democrat mayor describes the town's predicament as "very, very dramatic" and has demanded better border controls. Yet the influx shows no sign of abating.

A survey of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who have made it to Germany concluded yesterday that the main reason for their flight was fear of President Bashar al-Assad. More than 90 per cent were fleeing the fighting, with two-thirds blaming the Assad government. Only 32 per cent said they were fleeing Isis.

One-third of the refugees arrive in Germany by train; the rest enter from Austria by road, and often on foot. The Austrians are reported to be handing each refugee a map showing where the German border is. "Many ask us whether they are in Australia," an Austrian police spokesman was quoted as saying. "About 80 percent of the Syrian and Afghan refugees don't know where or what Austria is. That's why they want to go to Germany," he added.

But opinion polls suggest the German public is becoming increasingly frustrated at what many see as the failure of Ms Merkel's government to stem the influx. A survey published on Monday by Germany's Market and Social Research group showed that 59 per cent of Germans thought Ms Merkel was wrong to allow refugees to arrive unhindered from Hungary at the end of August. A month ago 66 percent thought the Chancellor was doing the right thing. The polls also show that a large majority of Germans now want the influx stopped.

Ms Merkel is also under intense political pressure to end her "open door" refugee policy. This week an open letter signed by 34 of her conservative MPs and state politicians complained that the refugee crisis was becoming unbearable. On Tuesday, Ms Merkel announced plans to set up a special refugee crisis unit.

Whether the measure will better the lot of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** like 30-year-old Ali Nabo is questionable. After a three-week journey with his wife and three young daughters from the Syrian city of Homs, he stood in a filthy coat in the Oktoberfest beer tent. He and his family had to ditch all their belongings during their sea crossing from Turkey to Greece as they feared their rubber boat would sink. Now he was worried he would be separated from his wife and children. What seemed like the first big smile for a long time shone from his face when a policeman reassured him: "We don't split up families."

\* An operation to intercept and seize vessels used by smugglers controlling the trafficking of migrants across the Mediterranean has begun. The second phase of the European Union's Operation Sophia targets the vessels rather than focusing on surveillance and rescues. But questions have already been raised about its likely effectiveness because of doubts that the EU has committed enough ships and manpower to tackle the smugglers.

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Saudi Arabia insists UN keeps LGBT rights out of its development goals; The Saudi Foreign Minister saysLGBT rightsare 'counter to Islamic law'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H1P-HS61-JCJY-G1DH-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 29, 2015 Tuesday 12:09 PM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 370 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

Saudi Arabia is insisting the UN removes gay rights from the organisation's Global Goals, saying it is "counter to Islamic law".

The protest comes from the Saudi Foreign Minister, Adel Al-Jubeir, who told the UN General Assembly that "mentioning sex in the text, to us, means exactly male and female. Mentioning family means consisting of a married man and woman," AP reported.

He stated Saudi Arabia has the right not to follow any agenda that runs "counter to Islamic law".

The Sustainable Development Goals program sets a series of "ambitious targets" for the UN's 193 member states, related to poverty, equality and ending climate change.

However, overt references to LGBT equality were removed from the final agreement, Pink News reports.

The goals pledge to ensure that "human rights and fundamental freedoms are enjoyed by all, without discrimination on grounds of race, ethnicity, colour, sex, age, language, religion, culture, migration status, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic situation, birth, disability or other status."

Homosexuality is illegal under Sharialaw in Saudi Arabia and punishments for those engaging in same-sex relationships include execution, chemical castration and imprisonment.

Read more

The evil empire of Saudi Arabia is the West's real enemy

Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti says authorities not at fault for stampede

Refugee crisis: Saudi Arabia's offer to build 200 mosques in Germany for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** branded 'cynical'

Anger after Saudi Arabia 'chosen to head key UN human rights panel'

The United Nations was

criticised recently

for handing Saudi Arabia a key human rights role, despite its record on human rights abuses and freedoms for women, minorities and dissidents.

Faisal bin Hassan Trad, Saudi Arabia's ambassador at the UN was elected as chair of a panel of independent experts on the UN Human Rights Council. He has said calls for Saudi Arabia to support rights for same-sex couples were "unacceptable" and a "flagrant interference in its internal affairs".

**Load-Date:** September 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*If Britain deports the refugee children it takes in once they turn 18, everybody loses; Hundreds of orphans from Afghanistan have already been returned to their war-torn "homes" when they reach adulthood. This shameful policy shouldn't be repeated*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWF-FH11-F021-6462-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 9, 2015 Wednesday 2:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 832 words

**Byline:** Christobel Hastings

**Body**

It was during David Cameron's address to Parliament this week on the subject of the refugee crisis that Lord Ashdown, former leader of the Liberal Democrats, suggested that the sanctuary Britain is set to offer vulnerable refugees displaced from Syria could be snatched away once they turn 18.

Offering vulnerable children a home in Britain, a British education, and British cultural assimilation, only to mean-spiritedly siphon hope away would surely contradict the very humanitarian ethics that Cameron purports to be upholding; not to mention that ardent talk of heeding the "depth of public feeling" will be shown to be yet another hollow promise if deportation schemes take place.

READ MORE:Surprised that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have smartphones? You're an idiot12 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** a day for 5 years? That's hardly a response, Cameron

Talk of a continuation of the World War II Kindertransport scheme, meanwhile, is a distasteful appropriation of a significant historical event, used by Cameron in an attempt to lend credence to proposals that have been hailed as woefully inadequate. The organised rescue effort which took place in the nine months prior to the outbreak of WWII, and which saw the UK rehome nearly 10,000 predominantly Jewish children, often meant that the resettled children were sometimes the only members of their family to survive the Holocaust. Would we have willingly deported those children back to the site of unspeakable ethnic cleansing, after building new lives in Britain? Of course not. Yet in 2015, the question of possible deportation threatens refugees who are bound to become valuable members of society.

Writing on Twitter, Lord Ashdown claimed that a Minister in the House of Lords (Baroness Stowell), in response to questioning over the futures of children brought in under the refugee programme, confirmed that in keeping with current legislation, deportation for those refugees who come of age in the UK during their temporary residence would remain a possibility.

In his speech to MPs which announced that Britain will resettle 20,000 refugees over the course of the next five years, Cameron also claimed that Britain should "fulfil its moral responsibility" to help refugees. With rhetoric clinging firmly to that of compassion and tradition, he asserted that Britain "will continue to show the world that this country is a country of extra compassion, always standing up for our values and helping those in need".

It makes no sense, then, from a moral, ethical or economic standpoint, to wash our hands of refugees who will have been afforded housing, education and loving foster families with which to forge a new life. The actions will only doubly brutalise the traumatised refugees we offer sanctuary to, uprooting them for a second time in their fractured lives. New generations would stand to learn a thoroughly toxic lesson in how the British treat people in need, after watching the establishment feed with one hand then take with the other.

We mustn't forget that the deportation of young people back to their war-torn birth countries has already been taking place under our noses. Hundreds of orphans of the Afghanistan conflict who came to Britain unaccompanied have had their asylum claims rejected and been deported "home" once they turned 18 - in the majority of cases, to a "home" that doesn't even exist anymore. Sadly, it seems the Home Office is well practised in forcibly returning asylum seekers back to dangerous countries after their temporary leave - in other words, their childhood - runs out. For many, the threat of homelessness, kidnap and torture at the hands of the Taliban looms large, with many former refugees made sitting targets because of cultural idiosyncrasies accrued during their Westernised childhood. It's not just these young people's futures that are bound by uncertainty; their very lives are at stake. Where did we get the idea that reaching adulthood means your eligibility for safety expires?

You can't pick and choose whether to give someone a home or not depending on their age. You either do so, with the intent of offering permanent residence, or risk doing more harm than good. The #refugeeswelcome hashtag that has garnered phenomenal public support over the past weeks might well assume tragic irony if the harrowing places from which these refugees fled are forced to return upon their eighteenth birthdays.

True, there might not be automatic deportation for those who turn 18 - and there is possibility that refugees brought in under the resettlement programme will have their asylum renewed. But the problem of granting temporary leave to unaccompanied children without intent to properly assess each individual asylum case once a child turns 18, no matter what kind of life you've built for yourself in the years spent recovering from danger, is urgent.

Young refugees need to stay put, lest we risk wasting a massive pool of potential for the sake of our island mentality.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syrian child refugees 'to be deported at age 18', says Paddy Ashdown; David Cameron says Britain will resettle up to 20,000 refugees from Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW2-6KX1-JCJY-G0VP-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 7, 2015 Monday 11:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 876 words

**Byline:** Oliver Wright

**Body**

Syrian refugee children who are allowed into to the UK under new measures announced by David Cameron could be deported when they reach 18, it has been claimed.

Britain will resettle up to 20,000 refugees who have fled from the conflict in Syria, the Prime Minister announced, but some may not arrive until the end of the decade and could face deportation after they have been in the UK for five years.

Refugee groups and opposition politicians lined up to criticise the announcement made by Mr Cameron for being "pitifully short of what's needed" to tackle the crisis. The Speaker of the Commons has granted an emergency debate on the issue today.

Mr Cameron claimed the UK's new resettlement scheme would ensure that vulnerable children - including orphans - are a priority, following in the tradition of the Kindertransport programme that helped Jewish children escape from Nazi Germany.

But it later emerged all those accepted under the scheme will only be given the right to remain in the UK for five years. This, the former leader of the Liberal Democrats Lord Ashdown suggested, could mean orphans and children being deported at age 18 having made a new life in Britain. A government spokesman said that after the five-year period refugees could apply for indefinite leave to remain.

Minister in the Lords just confirmed refugee orphans and children brought in under Cameron's scheme will be deported at age 18.- Paddy Ashdown (@paddyashdown) September 7, 2015

More than 370,000 people have now signed The Independent's petition urging the Government to take immediate action to open the country's doors to refugees. In addition, at least 5,000 people have volunteered to provide housing and assistance to refugees. Over 40 councils are discussing accommodating refugees in their cities.

A poll for The Independent by ORB finds that nearly half of Britons believe that  the Government should "do more" to help those fleeing the crisis. In his statement, Mr Cameron acknowledged the depth of public feeling and said it was right that Britain should "fulfil its moral responsibility" to help refugees.

Read more: Cameron announces UK to take in 20,000 Syrian refugeesRefugees reach Munich and are greeted with food and waterEmma Thompson claims Britain is 'racist' for not taking more

"Given the scale of the crisis and the suffering of the Syrian people it is right that we should do much more," he said, announcing that Britain would "resettle up to 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over the rest of this parliament".

Mr Cameron said the scale and speed of the resettlement programme would depend on the advice of the UNHCR working on the ground in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, where the majority of the refugees are living in camps.

But he refused to set a target for how many refugees Britain would take this year, leading to criticism that he was doing too little.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, described the 20,000 figure as "slim compared with vast total of human need", while the shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, said much more could be done in a far shorter space of time.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

"In the 1930s Britain took 10,000 children in just nine months," she said. "I am urging the Prime Minister to look again at this - and to talk to local authorities about how many more people they can swiftly help. It isn't enough to take refugees over five years when the crisis is now."

The Green Party MP Caroline Lucas added: "The Prime Minister's announcement amounts to letting in just 12 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** per day until May 2020 and is pitifully short of what's needed and of what British people want and expect. The UK should be taking more refugees - and doing so as quickly as possible."

Charities operating in the sector were more supportive, but also suggested that the Government could potentially have done more.

"It shouldn't have taken a photograph to get politicians to start to do the right thing, but this news offers a vital lifeline to thousands of Syrians," said Steve Symonds of Amnesty International.

"However, it does not address the huge challenge facing Europe right now - countries like Greece and Hungary cannot cope alone. Nor does it offer a solution to the many Eritreans, Afghans and others, forced to flee bullets, bombs, torture and overcrowded refugee camps elsewhere."

Read more: 7 ways British people are helping refugees right nowFive practical ways you can help refugees trying to find safetyIf these images don't change Europe's attitude, what will?

Oxfam chief executive Mark Goldring welcomed the announcement, but urged Mr Cameron to set out an "ambitious" timetable for completing the resettlement programme as soon as possible. Maurice Wren, Refugee Council chief executive, said the programme needed to be "frontloaded".

The poll for The Independent found that 49 per cent of the public believe the UK should do more to help with the current influx of people leaving the Middle East and Africa, with 38 per cent opposed and 12 per undecided. However, only 41 per cent believe the PM should allow more refugees fleeing the conflict into Britain, with 46 per cent opposed and 13 per cent undecided.

<em class="italic" />Sign <em class="italic">The Independent's petition to welcome refugees

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Footage of Syrian boy 'braving sniper fire' to rescue girl was faked by Norwegian filmmakers; Professional child actors were used to make the film in Morocco*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DKT-VH41-F021-6217-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 14, 2014 Friday 9:54 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 324 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

A video appearing to show a young Syrian boy braving sniper fire to rescue a girl was faked by a Norwegian film crew as an experiment, it has emerged.

The unidentified boy was labelled as a hero after footage circulated showing him apparently dodging a shower of bullets with the terrified girl to drag her to safety.

After being shared by Syrian activists and the Shaam Network, it attracted international attention and has so far garnered more than 5 million views on YouTube.

But now a group of Norwegian filmmakers has come forward to say they faked the video and deliberately presented it as reality to "spur debate".

It was scripted and filmed in Malta over the summer with professional child actors and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** volunteering to "react" in the background.

Lars Klevberg, a 34-year-old film director from Oslo, told BBC Trendinghe was "not uncomfortable" potentially deceiving millions of people.

"We wanted to see if the film would get attention and spur debate, first and foremost about children and war," he said. "We also wanted to see how the media would respond to such a video."

The Norwegian Film Institute, which contributed 280,000 kroner (£26,480) towards the controversial project, said it was the producers' responsibility to tell people the footage was not genuine.

Ase Meyer, a short film commissioner for the institute, told BBC Trending she was "surprised" people thought it was real because there is no blood visible after the boy appears to be shot.

"It was not a cynical way to get attention. They had honest motivations," she added.

The Syrian civil war has been raging since the Arab Spring in 2011, with civilians trapped at the mercy of Government forces, defence militias and Islamist groups, including Isis, who have all been accused of atrocities.

Read more: 'Child bride' blog is actually Norwegian campaignRecord 3 million refugees displaced by Syrian civil warUN report accuses Assad regime of crimes against humanity

**Load-Date:** November 14, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Teenage mother brought to tears after being given new home by millionaire who was homeless as child; Millionaire property developer Marco Robinson said he wanted 18-year-old Holly and her baby to have a better life than he had had growing up*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P6X-PF91-F021-623X-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 10, 2017 Thursday 1:12 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS; Version:1

**Length:** 310 words

**Byline:** Rachael Pells

**Body**

A teenage mother has been brought to tears after being given a new home by a millionaire who was homeless as a child.

Marco Robinson, 49, a property developer now worth £25m, bought 18 year-old Holly a three-bedroom flat in Preston, Lancashire after she showed him the mould-covered flat she shared with her baby.

Appearing on Channel 4's Get a House for Free, the businessman met with three groups of people - Jo, a woman losing her eyesight, a family of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and Holly and her daughter Bethany - who were all in need of a home.

Read more

School health and safety culture 'harms pupils', Ofsted chief warns

Mr Robinson eventually chose the young mother, telling her the flat was being transferred into her name, because he didn't want her baby to grow up with the same experiences he had suffered from as a child.

Mr Robinson said he had grown up in difficult circumstances, sleeping on park benches with his own mother at times.

As a result, he said he had always wanted to give someone the gift of somewhere to live.

Eight thousand people applied to move into the free flat as part of the television programme.

Runner-up Jo was given a deposit to help her buy her own home, and Mr Robinson gave the Syrian refugee family accommodation to live in while they waited to be granted asylum.

Read more

Halle Berry thanks mother for tough love when she was homeless

Homeless mother threatened with having children removed

Homelessness set to rise by three-quarters in next decade

Delivering the news to Holly, Mr Robinson said: "I want you and Bethany to have a solid place to live - a home. I want you to get out there and better yourself. You'll be able to go to college."

Bursting into tears, Holly said:"'You're going to change my life.

"There's no words for this. I'm so happy not just for my sake but for Bethany so I can give her a future I can give her stability."

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Syria: Record 3 million refugees displaced by civil war; One in eight Syrians now fleeing across the border with over half uprooted being children*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D17-RH81-F021-62PN-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

August 29, 2014 Friday 7:28 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 324 words

**Byline:** John Heilprin

**Body**

The civil war in Syria has forced a record 3 million people out of the country as more than a million people fled in the past year alone and the increasingly complex and bloody conflict has shown no sign of letting up, the UN refugee agency said Friday.

The tragic milestone means that about one of every eight Syrians is now fleeing across the border, and 6.5 million others have been displaced within the country's borders, the Geneva-based agency said, which also noted that over half of all those uprooted are children.

"The Syria crisis has become the biggest humanitarian emergency of our era, yet the world is failing to meet the needs of refugees and the countries hosting them," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres.

Almost half of all Syrians have been forced to abandon their homes and flee for their lives since the conflict began in March 2011. Syria had a prewar population of 23 million.

The massive numbers of Syrians fleeing the civil war also has stretched the resources of neighboring countries and raised fears of violence spreading in the region.

The UN estimates there are nearly 35,000 more awaiting registration as refugees, and hundreds of thousands who are not registered.

In pictures: Syria's escalating refugee crisis

The refugee agency and other aid groups say an increasing number of families are arriving in other countries in shockingly poor condition, exhausted and scared and with almost no financial savings left after having been on the run for a year or more. In eastern Jordan, for example, the agency says refugees crossing the desert are forced to pay smugglers $100 per person or more to be taken to safety.

Lebanon hosts 1.14 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, the single highest concentration of them, but Turkey has 815,000 and Jordan has 608,000.

The agency says regional governments estimate hundreds of thousands more Syrians are seeking sanctuary in their borders without registering as refugees.

AP

**Load-Date:** August 29, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Bread and Roses: Meet the refugee women finding employment through floristry; 'We wanted to help women get a step up into jobs that would be more meaningful'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P7B-8YP1-JCJY-G415-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 12, 2017 Saturday 10:53 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK; Version:1

**Length:** 874 words

**Byline:** Helen Hoddinott

**Body**

Amira smiles as she puts the final touches on a bouquet of flowers in front of her.

"Sweet Williams are my favourite," she says, gesturing to the fuchsia blooms at the centre of the arrangement.

Read more

Syrian refugee family in 'lost family portrait' find missing daughter

Amira is a refugee. Over six weeks she has learnt the fundamentals of flower arranging alongside five other refugee and asylum seeking women.

Like many others in the group, she had to leave behind acareerafter being forced to leave her home. InSyria, she was a teacher, a profession she loved but unable to teach in the UK, she's eager to learn a new set of skills.

"Life is very different now," she says. "In the future I want to be learning, and working."

The group's final class of the course was a lesson in sponge arrangements

Arriving on the final morning of the course before they graduate, the women have to step around heaps of freshly cut flowers. They howl with laughter as they catch up over steaming cups of tea. Having all met for the first time only six weeks ago, it's clear they've become close.

The course is run by Bread and Roses, a social enterprise which trains and employs women in floristry. Meeting weekly at Hackney City Farm in east London, it's a space to learn English, develop skills and build confidence.

Co-founded by Olivia Head and Sneh Jani in May 2016, Bread and Roses have run four programmes to date and worked with over 50 women from around the world.

"The kind of work that many refugee women end up doing because of their difficulty accessing the labour market - low paid, zero hour cleaning and caring jobs - is hugely undervalued and therefore unfulfilling," says Olivia. "We wanted to help women get a step up into jobs that would be more meaningful."

Iman makes some final tweaks

The phrase 'bread and roses' has been used as a political slogan ever since it was coined by American socialist and feminist, Rose Schneiderman, in 1912.

"It has become symbolic of the struggle of the female worker to have not only enough to buy a crust, but to be able to find meaning and joy in life and work."

Read more

Clooneys to help 3,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** go to school in Lebanon

Having fled their homes in Syria, Eritrea and Angola, the trainee florists are all in the process of setting up new lives in London, a challenge they are committed to tackling quickly.

"Refugees are determined to learn English and start contributing to their new communities through work, volunteering and socialising with their neighbours," Mariam Kemple-Hardy, head of campaigns at Refugee Action told

The Independent.

"They face huge barriers to learning, from a lack of provision to long waiting lists, with women in particular affected by cuts to funding for lessons and a reduction in childcare places."

Kendra's arrangement will be transported across London to its new owner

In a bid to ensure mothers with young children are able to attend the course, Bread and Roses provides childcare for the duration of the classes. It's a measure that has allowed Amira to keep coming back every week. While her son, 2-year-old Mohammed, attends a baby musical play session with a volunteer child-minder, Amira is free to fully engage in the classes.

Lola, a florist who volunteers with the group, speaks six languages and is constantly on hand to help with any floristry phrases getting lost in translation.

According to Lola, some participants had been too nervous to practice English before starting the classes, despite having lived in England for years.

"Here is like family and there are a lot of people to help, so they have new skills and are happy," she said.

Lola helps out with an arrangement

Equipped with floristry skills gained over the last six weeks, Amira will now be able to do paid work with Bread and Roses - making bouquets that are sold to local businesses and customers across London.

Read more

Home Office accused of abandoning vulnerable ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Refugee dubbed 'the little Picasso' to hold first art exhibition

UN tells Britain to double the amount of refugees it takes in

Some of the trainee florists, however, are yet to receive their refugee status which would allow them to work.The wait can be long and unpredictable; the number of asylum seekers in the UK waiting more than six months for a decision from the Home Officerose more than 70% over the last year.

Having faced such adversity to arrive in the UK, the immediate challenge facing these women has been contributing to their communities and feeling comfortable in their new country. Opportunities for them are beginning to proliferate around the UK, withOurmala providing free yoga classes, The Chickpea Sisters helping refugee women to work by equipping them with catering skills, and Women for Refugee Women on hand to offer overarching support.

After six weeks of lessons in cutting, pruning and arranging, the newly minted florists are graduating. Armed with a certificate in floristry, all have opted to become part of the Bread and Roses freelance pool which will provide opportunities and act as an ever-expanding support network going forward.

"I'd be very happy to find any work. Yes, no problem," says Amira.

"In the future, I want too much work."

Some names in this article have been changed.

**Load-Date:** August 12, 2017

**End of Document**



[*US appeals court denies Donald Trump's request to reinstate travel ban; Department of Homeland Security suspended enforcement of travel ban following judge's order*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT8-4731-F021-611Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 5, 2017 Sunday 9:03 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 333 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

A federal appeals court has denied Donald Trump's request to immediately reinstate his travel ban on seven Muslim-majority countries.

The Department of Homeland Security suspended all enforcement of Mr Trump's immigration ban following a nationwide locking of the executive order from federal judge James Robart in Washington.

Mr Trump called the order from the "so-called" judge "ridiculous".

President Donald Trump lashes out at US judge on Twitter

However, the White House said the government would adhere to the court's ruling until the Justice Department intervenes.

But the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco denied the Justice Department's request, and instead asked both the state of Washington and the Trump administration to file more arguments at the start of next week.

The higher court's denial of an immediate stay means legal battles over the ban will continue into the coming week at least.

Acting Solicitor General Noel Francisco forcefully argued in the government's brief that presidential authority is "largely immune from judicial control" when it comes to deciding who can enter or stay in the United States.

The Justice Department asked that the federal judge's order be stayed pending resolution of the appeal, so that the ban can "ensure that those approved for admission do not intend to harm Americans and that they have no ties to terrorism."

"We'll win," Mr Trump said at the start of the weekend. "For the safety of the country, we'll win."

In his written order, Mr Robart said it is not the court's job to "create policy or judge the wisdom of any particular policy promoted by the other two branches," but rather to make sure that an action taken by the government "comports with our country's laws."

Mr Trump's executive order sought to ban all travellers from the seven countries - Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen -for 90 days and suspended the US's refugee program for 120 days.

It also indefinitely suspended ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US.

**Load-Date:** February 5, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Iran's 'exemplary' refugee hosting efforts praised by UN; Iran has sheltered approximately three million Afghans for almost four decades, a success story international officials say is 'not told enough'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N3R-21D1-F021-63G1-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 16, 2017 Thursday 7:07 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST; Version:2

**Length:** 347 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

Iran, one of the states targeted by Donald Trump's Muslim ban, has been praised by the UN for the way it has caredfor millions of refugees.

The Soviet War in Afghanistan displaced six million people to neighbouring Iran and Pakistan in 1979. Almost four decades later, the Tehran government still shelters around one million registered Afghans, and up to two million are thought to also be living in the country - making Iran home to the world's fourth largest refugee population.

"The leadership demonstrated by the Iranian government has been exemplary in hosting refugees and keeping borders open," Sivanka Dhanapala, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Tehran, said on Wednesday.

"It's a story that's not told often enough."

The remarks come as Mr Trump's administration tries to resuscitate its travel ban on peoplefrom seven Muslim-majority countries, and halt the resettlement of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Read more

Iran army general threatens to give US 'slap in the face'

The new ban - which could affect the one million Iranian nationals living and studying in the US - was slapped down on Wednesday by a federal court in Hawaii on the grounds it could cause "irreparable injury."

While Afghans resident in Iran - especially those who are undocumented - are often marginalised to the fringes of society as poorly paid manual workers, and are not allowed to apply for citizenship, the Tehran government has also recently taken positive steps such as ordering schools to take in all Afghan children, and embarked on a health insurance scheme that covers refugees.

The UN is fostering hopes that the country will ease work permit restrictions and register more undocumented Afghans in the future.

They are unlikely to return home voluntarily as Afghanistan becomes more unstable that it has been in years and its economy continues to stagnate. Worldwide, the average amount of time a refugee spends outside their home country is 20 years.

"In a world where you have multiple bad stories about hosting refugees, I think Iran is really a good news story," Mr Dhanapala added.

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*African Union criticises US for 'taking many of our people as slaves' and not taking refugees; Trump has suspended all US refugee programmes and banned immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries, three of which are AU members*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MS0-FWN1-F021-63B0-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

The head of the African Union has criticised Donald Trump's ban on immigration from some Muslim-majority countries, saying it presents "one of the greatest challenges" for the continent.

As representatives of the AU's 53 member states met in Addis Ababa for a two-day summit, the chief of its commission said the bloc was entering "very turbulent times" after the US President's election.

"The very country to which many of our people were taken as slaves during the transatlantic slave trade has now decided to ban refugees from some of our countries," said Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

"What do we do about this? Indeed, this is one of the greatest challenges to our unity and solidarity."

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Trump travel ban 'mean-spirited' and illegal under human rights law

Mr Trump's executive order prevented people with passports from three African nations - Libya, Somalia and Sudan - from travelling to the US. It also blocked visas for citizens from four Middle Eastern countries - Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Iran.

The President has also suspended all US refugee programmes for 120 days, and ended the flow of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to America indefinitely.

Also speaking in Ethiopia, the UN Secretary General commended African countries for opening their borders to refugees and people fleeing violence while other parts of the world, including the developed West, close boundaries and build walls.

Antonio Guterres, attending his first AU summit as the UN chief, said: "African nations are among the world's largest and most generous hosts of refugees.

"African borders remain open for those in need of protection when so many borders are being closed, even in the most developed countries in the world."

Mr Guterres didn't make a direct reference to the recent executive orders signed by Mr Trump, which also included a commitment to build a wall along the Mexican border, but his comment drew enthusiastic applause from hundreds of African leaders, officials and dignitaries who attended the opening of the summit, the Associated Press reported.

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