

JECRC MUN 2016

LETTER BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

We are extremely excited and hope to see you delegates in the committee and bring out a solution to this interesting, astounding yet not much discussed agenda. Though, we would suggest to not be completely dependent on this background guide rather consider it as a guideline for your research.

The executive board shall be fairly strict with the procedure, the discussion of agenda will be our priority. So don't restrict your suggestions because of hesitations regarding procedures. Also, the discussions to be made shall be within the mandate of the committee.

Knowledge about the United Nations System, the Council, the Agenda and all the aspects of the agenda helps the delegate contribute more effectively in the Council. A well-researched delegate is always appreciated by the executive board. Being aware of the daunting task that this might seem to most delegates, we have made an attempt at preparing a comprehensive, yet unintimidating background guide that we hope shall serve to guide you through your research. All the delegates should be prepared well in order to make the council's direction and debate productive. After all, only then will you truly be able to represent your country in the best possible way. We encourage you to go beyond this background guide and delve into the extremities of the agenda to further enhance your knowledge of a burning global issue. The background guide will have a basic outline of the agenda to help your understanding and express our expectations from you as a delegate.

We hope to see a bunch of confident leaders, manipulative orators and well-researched delegates coming together and join this race of diplomats to form an amalgam of fruitful discussions. Remember to speak up, and please do enjoy yourselves while what we hope shall be an enriching learning experience lasts. Do feel free to contact the executive board in case of any doubts or discrepancies.

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Committee Description

The United Nations Refugee Agency – formally called UNHCR for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – was created and mandated in 1959 by the General Assembly to lead and facilitate international cooperative efforts to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems all around the world. UNHCR's main responsibility is to ensure that everyone can exercise their rights to seek asylum and to find safe refuge in another state with the option to either return home voluntarily, integrate locally, or be able to resettle or relocate to a different state altogether.

This committee is also mandated to help stateless individuals find permanent asylum without the risk of persecution based on ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. UNHCR's mandate has gradually been expanded to include protecting and providing humanitarian assistance to whom it describes as other persons "of concern," including internally displaced persons (IDPs) who would fit the legal definition of a refugee under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Organization for African Unity Convention, or some other treaty if they left their country, but who presently remain in their country of origin. UNHCR presently has major missions in Lebanon, South Sudan, Chad/Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan as well as Kenya to assist and provide services to IDPs and refugees.

Within the last six decades, this Committee has relocated and resettled tens of millions of refugees without discrimination and with the ultimate goal of making sure that everyone has a place they can call home. Today, this Committee has over 7,000 personnel operating in more than 125 countries around the world, assisting over 40 million refugees find means of living safely and healthily until they can find a permanent home.

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The ultimate goal of UNHCR is to help find permanent solutions that allow refugees to rebuild their lives in peace, including, but not limited to voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement in another country. Even though UNHCR has already been assisting millions around the world every year, for several other millions, durable solutions are not accessible and many refugees remain in limbo until they can return to their home countries or resettle in another country.

For millions of refugees around the world, going home remains the strongest hope of finding an end to exile. In order to allow the migration of refugees back to their country of origin, UNHCR needs the continuous support of source countries to reintegrate their own people after conflict has ended. It must also have the support of the international community in the post-conflict phase to ensure that those who choose to go home can rebuild their lives with stability and security. Priorities for refugees choosing to return are promoting enabling conditions for voluntary repatriation, such as housing and property restitution, and providing return assistance and legal aid to returnees.

Another problem UNHCR faces is helping refugees relocate to a nation other than their nation of origin and the nation they live in as a refugee. Out of the 10 million plus refugees in this category, only about 1 percent are considered for resettlement. One factor contributing to this number is the fact that only a handful of countries participate in the resettlement program. While many nations choose to donate money, UNHCR needs more participation and support from all nations in order to help refugees choose what path they want to follow in their lives and ensure that whatever path they choose provides them safety and the ability to exercise their rights.

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BACKGROUND GUIDE

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country. It also has a mandate to help stateless people.

Background Information

Migration and refugee movements in the Mediterranean countries have gained unprecedented momentum in recent months. The situation along migratory routes to Europe and within Europe itself is changing faster than ever before. Opinions of all kinds flourish, often without the necessary base of accurate, up-to-date information.

MPC website on the migrant crisis is aimed at providing a mixed audience comprised of the media, policy-makers and politicians, migration stakeholders, and the academic community, with the facts needed to understand the course of events and make informed judgments. The website will be enriched and updated on a weekly basis. It will offer in one single place comprehensive, detailed, multidimensional and multi-sited information gathered from a wide variety of sources either opened or not to public access. It aims at providing the facts with a level of details that no other single source offers.

The website will gather all the relevant data (statistics, graphs, maps, legislations, documents from governments and other stakeholders, etc.), accompanied by analytical notes and policy briefs. It will cover all the

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countries on the main migration routes to the EU, allowing comparison between EU and non-EU countries.

An estimated 9 million Syrians have fled their homes since the outbreak of civil war in March 2011, taking refuge in neighbouring countries or within Syria itself. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), over 3 million have fled to Syria's immediate neighbours Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. 6.5 million are internally displaced within Syria. Meanwhile, under 150,000 Syrians have declared asylum in the European Union, while member states have pledged to resettle a further 33,000 Syrians. The vast majority of these resettlement spots – 28,500 or 85% – are pledged by Germany.

It is a project of the [Migration Policy Centre](#) at the [European University Institute](#), based on a series of studies conducted by local researchers on behalf of the MPC at the end of 2012 and an update carried out in 2014. This website is the result of close collaboration between a [team of journalists](#) and these local researchers, under the auspices of the MPC, to paint a broad picture of the worst refugee crisis to affect the region in years.

This also examines the role played by the [European Union](#), both as a provider of humanitarian aid and as a home for refugees. While it is true that the EU is a leading contributor of humanitarian aid to the region, the amount donated by each of its 28 member states has varied greatly. Furthermore, while the EU has accepted the vast majority of Syrians who have applied for asylum, it has to date received relatively few requests. Its response to a UNHCR call for more than 130,000 resettlement spots for Syrian refugees between 2013-2016 has also been tepid.

In contrast, absorbing the influx of refugees has been an enormous challenge for Syria's neighbors, with strong implications for the stability of the entire region. We hope this website is an accessible way to better understand the crisis.

During the collapse of Colonel Gaddafi's regime in 2011, there were fears that millions of refugees could reach Europe's shores. Yet only **30,000** refugees actually made it to Europe while millions poured into Libya's neighbors. According to the European Union, almost **150,00 Syrian refugees have declared political asylum in the European Union** since the start of the current conflict in Syria, the majority in Germany and Sweden. Meanwhile, more than **3 million refugees** have entered Syria's neighboring countries.

European Union

Last year in Libya, we worried disproportionately about Libyan refugees reaching Europe. At this point we have a similar situation with Syria.

Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, November 2012

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A few reports for extensive research
(Please refer the links for more information)

When the best option is a leaky boat : why migrants risk their lives crossing the Mediterranean and what Europe is doing about it
FARGUES, Philippe; BONFANTI, Sara

Title: When the best option is a leaky boat : why migrants risk their lives crossing the Mediterranean and what Europe is doing about it

Author: [FARGUES, Philippe](#); [BONFANTI, Sara](#)

Date: 2014

Series/Report no.: Migration Policy Centre; Policy Briefs; 2014/05

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1814/33271>

External link: <http://www.migrationpolicycentre.eu/>

Abstract:

The Mediterranean Sea is the most porous border between Europe and its neighbors and the world's most dangerous border between countries that are not at war with each other. Three facts emerge: sea routes to Europe are anything but new; places of embarkation and disembarkation have changed in relation to controls; and the risk of dying at sea has considerably increased over the last decade. Two key questions for designing responses must be addressed: to what extent do the root causes of clandestine migration across the Mediterranean lie in the Mediterranean region itself; and how many in these flows are irregular labor migrants and how many are refugees? The Mare Nostrum operation launched by Italy will be discussed in terms of: rescues; compliance with European legislation; and possible pull effects on unauthorized migration. In conclusion, other possible responses will be brought up such as combatting the smugglers and pre-voyage intervention.

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Rethinking the place of religion in European secularized societies : the need for more open societies

ROY, Olivier

Title: Rethinking the place of religion in European secularized societies :
the need for more open societies

Editor(s): ROY, Olivier

Date: 2016

Series/Report no.: EUI RSCAS; 2016; RELIGIOWEST

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1814/40305>

External link: <http://www.eui.eu/Projects/ReligioWest/Home.aspx>

Abstract:

The contemporary debate on Islam both hides and reveals a deeper debate on "What religion means in a secular Europe". In fact the more or less conflictual relationship with Islam constraints the Europeans to make explicit what they "oppose" to Islam as "European values". And here starts the problem: are these Western values first secular or first Christian? There would be little problem if the secular values were just a result of the secularization of religious norms, or at least were congruent with them. But this is no more the case: the deep conflict that is dividing Europe between a secular majority and hard core religious faith communities on abortion, same-sex marriage, bio-ethics, or gender issues shows that there is no more a common moral ground for values. And even in the USA, where a majority of the population still claims to be religious, the "culture war" ended, after the approval of same sex marriage by the Supreme Court, in the victory of new values that hard-core believers see as incompatible with their religious norms. Of course one could show that the Western conception of human rights derives from a Christian matrix. One can also stress that both the Catholic Church (through Thomas Aquino's concept of "natural law") and the Kantian agnostic tradition did consider that moral values could be universal and could stand by themselves without depending on faith or theology. But, as we saw, this continuity between Christianity and modern secularism is no more based on common values. The continuity, if any, is now commonly expressed in terms of "identity". But how to conceive an "identity", and specifically a "Christian identity", not

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based on shared values, if not on a common faith? The reference to "Christian identity" instead of "Christianity" is precisely a way to "secularize" Christianity and to exclude from the common values any specific religious value, norm or practice that could be seen as not being congruent with these dominant secular values (for instance difference of status between men and women, "pro-life" versus "pro-choice", gay-rights etc.). But the consequence is that any religious values or norms perceived as not being congruent with what we call European values, in a word anything that could be seen as purely religious, should be excluded from the public space. This trend represents a striking departure from the historically constructed mix of compromise and consensus that has shaped the relations between state, society and religion in Western countries since the end of the wars of religions. New tensions are thus rising that go far beyond the case of Islam. And because Europe cannot just revert to a previous stage where religion (in this case Christianity) was intimately linked with culture, it has to rethink the place of religion in the public space and the definition of religious freedom, by accepting that a state of rights is not necessarily based on a consensus on values.

What to expect from sectoral trading : a U.S.-China example

GAVARD, Claire; WINCHESTER, Niven; JACOBY, Henry; PALTSEV, Sergey

Title: What to expect from sectoral trading : a U.S.-China example

Author: GAVARD, Claire; WINCHESTER, Niven; JACOBY, Henry; PALTSEV, Sergey

Date: 2011

Series/Report no.: MIT Global Science Policy Change Report; 2011/193; [Florence School of Regulation Climate]

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1814/40265>

External

link: http://globalchange.mit.edu/files/document/MITJPSPGC_Rpt193.pdf

Abstract:

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In recent United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations, sectorial mechanisms were proposed as a way to encourage early action and spur investment in low carbon technologies in developing countries, particularly in the electricity sector. Sectoral trading, which is one such proposition, involves including a sector from one or more nations in an international cap-and-trade system. In order to assess potential impacts from such a mechanism, we analyze trade in carbon permits between the Chinese electricity sector and a U.S. economy-wide cap-and-trade program using the MIT Emissions Prediction and Policy Analysis (EPPA) model. We find that this sectorial policy induces significant financial transfers between the two countries. In 2030, the U.S. purchases permits valued at \$42 billion from China, which represents more than 46% of its capped emissions. Despite these transfers, there is only a small change in Chinese welfare. In the U.S., the availability of relatively cheap emissions permits significantly reduces the cost of climate policy. In China, sectorial trading increases the price of electricity and reduces the amount of electricity generated, particularly from coal, while opposite effects are observed in the U.S. Despite increases in the price of electricity in China, only small increases in electricity generation from nuclear and renewables are projected in the timeframe of our analysis (2010- 2030). Because the price of coal decreases, we also find that sectorial trading leads to emissions increases in non-electricity sectors in China, a form of internal carbon leakage.

Security developments in East Asia: what implications for the EU **CASARINI, Nicola**

Title: Security developments in East Asia: what implications for the EU

Author: [CASARINI, Nicola](#)

Date: 2011

Series/Report no.: ISSUE Briefs; 2011/7

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1814/40263>

External link: <http://www.iss.europa.eu/>

Abstract:

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Recent security developments in East Asia have raised questions about peace and stability in a part of the world accounting for over a quarter of EU global trade. This Policy Brief assesses the changing power relations in East Asia and highlights potential implications of the region's security flashpoints for the EU.

The Migration Policy Centre (MPC) Mission statement

The Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute, Florence, conducts advanced research on global migration to serve migration governance needs at European level, from developing, implementing and monitoring migration-related policies to assessing their impact on the wider economy and society. Rationale Migration represents both an opportunity and a challenge. While well-managed migration may foster progress and welfare in origin- as well as destination countries, its mismanagement may put social cohesion, security and national sovereignty at risk. Sound policy-making on migration and related matters must be based on knowledge, but the construction of knowledge must in turn address policy priorities. Because migration is rapidly evolving, knowledge thereof needs to be constantly updated. Given that migration links each individual country with the rest of the world, its study requires innovative cooperation between scholars around the world. The MPC conducts field as well as archival research, both of which are scientifically robust and policy-relevant, not only at European level, but also globally, targeting policy-makers as well as politicians. This research provides tools for addressing migration challenges, by: 1) producing policyoriented research on aspects of migration, asylum and mobility in Europe and in countries located along migration routes to Europe, that are regarded as priorities; 2) bridging research with action by providing policy-makers and other stakeholders with results required by evidence-based policymaking, as well as necessary methodologies that address migration governance needs; 3) pooling scholars, experts, policy makers, and influential thinkers in order to identify problems, research their causes and consequences, and devise policy solutions. The MPC's research includes a core programme and several projects, most of them co-financed by the European Union. Results of the above activities are made available for public consultation through the website of the project: www.migrationpolicycentre.eu For more information: Migration Policy Centre (MPC) Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (EUI) Via delle Fontanelle 19 50014 San Domenico di Fiesole Italy Tel: +39 055 46 85 817 Fax: + 39 055 46 85

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770 Email: migration@eui.eu Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies
<http://www.eui.eu/RSCAS/> Abstract Although over 450,000 Syrians fled to countries nearby Syria, numbers seeking refuge within the EU remain small. In 2011, a total of 8,920 Syrians applied for asylum within EU borders, while in the first three quarters of 2012 applications increased slightly, reaching a total of 11,573. Only 1,490 irregular entries of Syrians were recorded during the last three quarters of 2011, which rose to 2,739 in the first two quarters of 2012. Numbers of Syrians applying for immigration have also remained negligible. In light of the overall magnitude of the crisis compared with the actual numbers reaching Europe, this paper reviews EU's response to the crisis. First, it presents the facts: a historical review of displacements from Syria, the numbers, and the route of travel for Syrian refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers to Europe. This is followed by a review of European responses to the Syrian crisis. Finally, the paper concludes with recommendations for addressing the Syrian refugee crisis. In short, the EU could consider: establishing a Regional Protection Programme (RPP) with a large increase of Syrian refugee resettlement as a required component; increasing refugee resettlement for those who have been affected by the Syrian crisis and are the most in need; continue positive asylum procedures throughout the EU, and grant prima facie recognition including provision of sufficient assistance to Syrian asylum seekers; encourage visa facilitation and family reunification for Syrians; and continue to work with its international partners to find a political and humanitarian solution to the Syrian crisis.

Wealthy Gulf Nations Are Criticized for Tepid Response to Syrian Refugee Crisis

The Arab nations of the Persian Gulf have some the world's highest per capita incomes. Their leaders speak passionately about the plight of Syrians, and their state-funded news media cover the Syrian civil war without cease.

Yet as millions of Syrian refugees languish elsewhere in the Middle East and many have risked their lives to reach Europe or died along the way, Gulf nations have agreed to resettle only a surprisingly small number of refugees.

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As the migration crisis overwhelms Europe and after [images of a drowned Syrian toddler](#) crystallized Syrian desperation, humanitarian groups are increasingly accusing the Arab world's richest nations of not doing enough to help out.

Accenting that criticism are the deep but shadowy roles countries like [Qatar](#) and [Saudi Arabia](#) have played in [Syria](#) by bankrolling rebels fighting President Bashar al-Assad.

And wealthy Gulf citizens — with or without their governments' knowledge — have helped fund the rise of Syria's jihadists, according to American officials.

“Burden sharing has no meaning in the Gulf, and the Saudi, Emirati and Qatari approach has been to sign a check and let everyone else deal with it,” said Sarah Leah Whitson, executive director of Human Rights Watch for its Middle East and North Africa division. “Now everyone else is saying, ‘That’s not fair.’”

There are, in fact, hundreds of thousands of Syrians in the Gulf, where vast oil wealth and relatively small citizen populations have made the countries prime destinations for workers from poorer Arab countries and elsewhere. While many expatriates are professionals who have built lucrative careers there, most are low-paid laborers who give up their rights to get jobs and can be deported with little notice.

This group now contains many Syrians who have fled the war, although they get none of the protections or financial support that come with legal refugee or asylum status, nor a path to future citizenship — benefits Gulf countries do not grant.

Gulf officials and commentators reject the criticism, however, saying that their countries have generously funded humanitarian aid and that giving Syrians the ability to work is better than leaving them with nothing to do in economically struggling countries and squalid refugee camps.

“If it wasn’t for the Gulf states, you would expect these millions to be in a much more tragic state than they are,” said Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, a political science professor in the [United Arab Emirates](#),

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which he said has taken in more than 160,000 Syrians in the last three years. “This finger-pointing at the Gulf that they are not doing anything, it is just not true.”

Others bristle at criticism from the United States and the West, whom they accuse of letting the conflict fester for more than four years while Mr. Assad’s forces deployed chemical weapons and bombed civilian areas, causing so many people to flee.

“Why is it that there are just questions about the position of the Gulf, but not about who is behind the crisis, who created the crisis?” asked Khalid al-Dakhil, a political science professor at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

He acknowledged that the Gulf could do more, but directed the blame toward Iran and Russia, which have heavily backed Mr. Assad and his military while also refusing to resettle Syrian refugees.

Fueling the criticism is the tremendous wealth in the Gulf, a region filled with sprawling malls, gleaming skyscrapers and wide boulevards clogged with S.U.V.s. That opulence is clearly lacking in Syria’s neighbors, where most of the conflict’s [more than four million refugees](#) are.

[Jordan](#), for example, has an annual per capita income of \$11,000 and has received 630,000 refugees. [Lebanon](#) is richer, but has more than 1.2 million Syrians, making them about one-quarter of the population.

[Turkey](#) has the most, about two million, with a per capita income of \$20,000.

Those average incomes are a fraction of the figures for Qatar, \$143,000; [Kuwait](#), \$71,000; or Saudi Arabia, \$52,000, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Gulf countries have contributed to humanitarian aid. Saudi Arabia has given \$18.4 million to the [United Nations Syria response](#) fund so far this year, while Kuwait has given more than \$304 million, making it the world’s third-largest donor. The United States has

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given the most, \$1.1 billion, and has agreed to resettle about 1,500 Syrians.

Title: A note on Syrian refugees in the Gulf : attempting to assess data and policies

Author: [DE BEL-AIR, Françoise](#)

Date: 2015

Series/Report no.: Migration Policy Centre; GLMM; Explanatory note; 11/2015

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1814/37965>

External link: <http://gulfmigration.eu/>
<http://www.migrationpolicycentre.eu>
<http://www.grc.net/>

Abstract:

As the migrant crisis escalates at Europe's borders, the Gulf States have been blamed for having offered "zero resettlement" to Syrian refugees. In response to these statements, some Gulf States claim that they have actually relaxed their entry and residency laws to accommodate sizeable numbers of Syrian nationals since the start of the conflict. The paper assesses these claims using statistics available from these countries, as well as declarations from official bodies released in the local press. It appears that, besides being major aid donors to Arab countries sheltering Syrian refugees, most Gulf States have passed various measures destined to facilitate the entry and stay of Syrians since 2011.

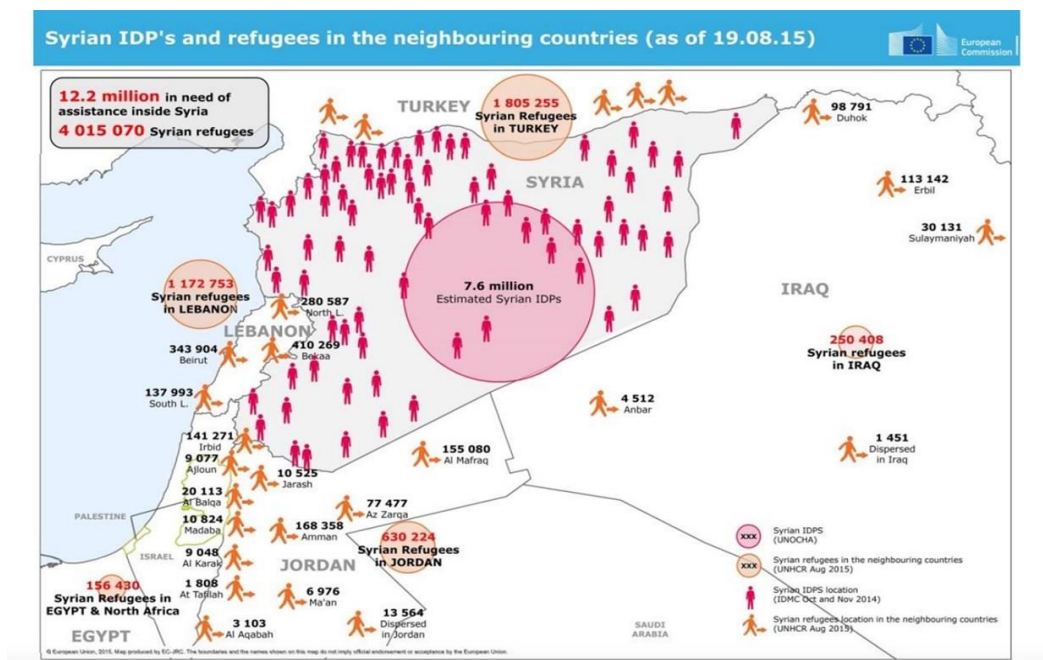
Subject: Syria; Bahrain; Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates; Politics; Laws & Regulations; Refugees; Deportation

Description:

GLMM - Gulf Labour Markets and Migration

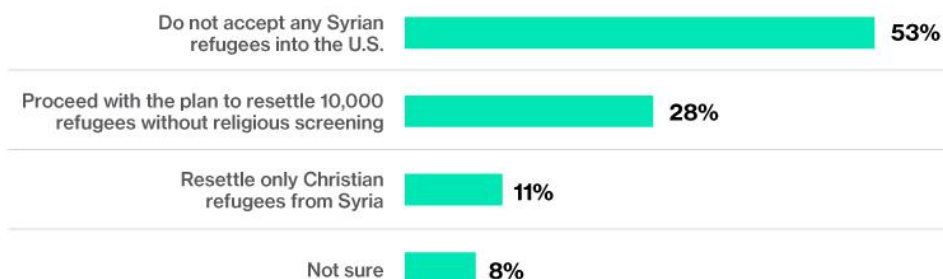
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Important Maps concerning Syrian refugees globally.



Refugee Crisis

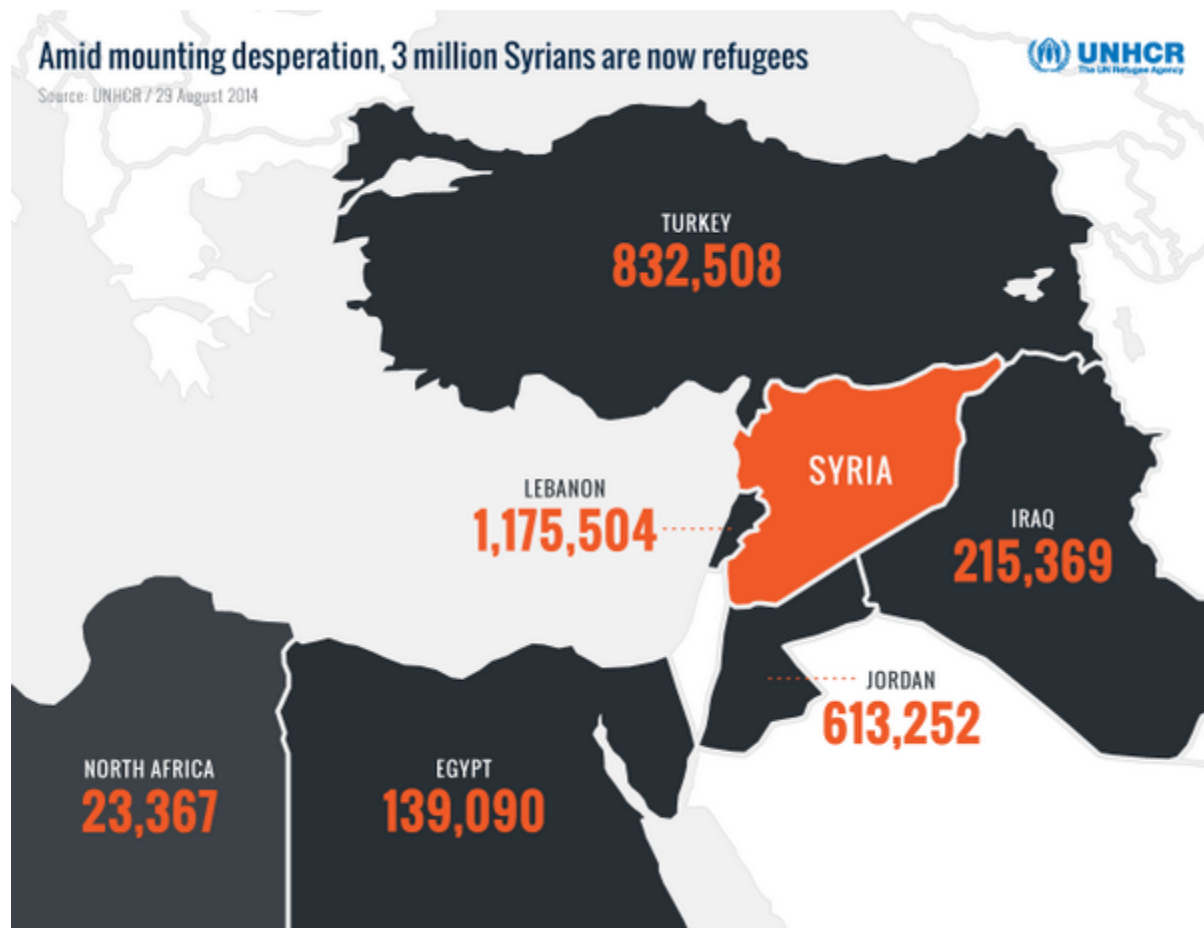
Which of the following do you think is the best approach for the U.S. to take with refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria?



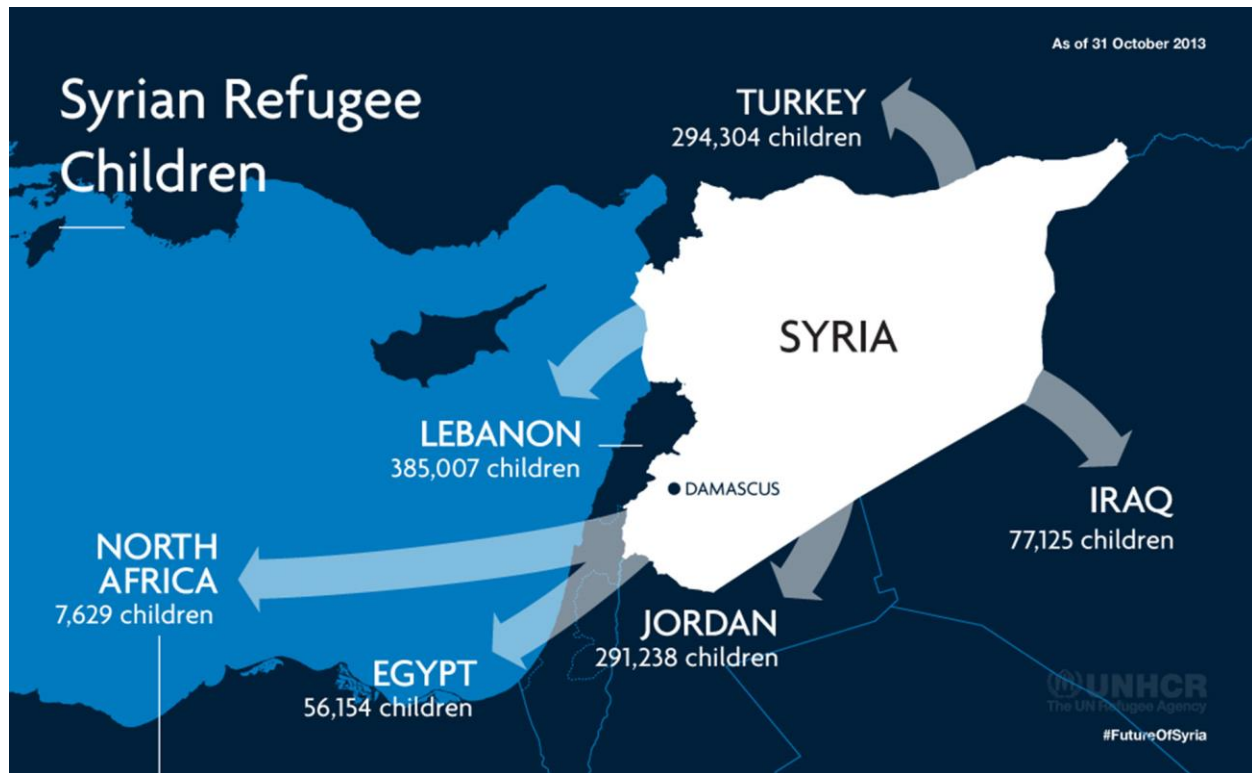
Note: May not equal 100% due to rounding.

Bloomberg Politics National Poll of 628 U.S. adults, November 16-17, 2015
Margin of error: +/- 3.9 pct pts

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UN Refugee Agency
@Refugees

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