

Position Paper: Republic of Türkiye

Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)

Topic: Human Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

Delegation: Republic of Türkiye

Introduction

The Republic of Türkiye is one of the world's largest hosts of refugees, showing strong commitment to protecting the human rights of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Türkiye currently shelters around 3.2 million registered Syrian refugees and over 222,000 people from other countries. Despite economic and social challenges, Türkiye works to provide safety and support. Our approach follows international law, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol (with a geographical limit for non-European refugees), and national laws like the Law on Foreigners and International Protection (2013). This paper outlines Türkiye's efforts, challenges, and suggestions for improving the human rights of refugees and IDPs worldwide.

National Policy and Commitment

Türkiye has built a solid legal system to protect refugees and IDPs. The **Law on Foreigners and International Protection (2013)** and the **Temporary Protection Regulation (2014)** allow Syrian refugees access to healthcare, education, and some job opportunities. The Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) handles registration and support, working closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide aid and help with resettlement for non-European refugees.

Türkiye has spent billions over the past decade on refugee housing, healthcare, and education. The **EU Facility for Refugees in Türkiye** provides funds for humanitarian aid, schools, hospitals, and local infrastructure. However, challenges like public resistance to integration, limited job access for refugees, and risks of forced returns remain. Türkiye is tackling these issues through legal reforms and global partnerships.

Türkiye also supports IDPs in Turkish-administered areas of northern Syria, offering housing, schools, and healthcare to millions, many of whom are displaced. Still, long-term solutions are needed, as integration and safe returns are difficult due to ongoing conflicts and economic pressures.

Challenges and Concerns

Türkiye faces major challenges in protecting refugee and IDP rights. The large number of refugees strains resources, and public opinion has grown critical due to economic issues and high inflation. Negative views on refugees make integration harder. Non-Syrian refugees, like those from Afghanistan and Iraq, have fewer rights under international protection status and often face long waits for resettlement to other countries.

There have been concerns about unlawful returns to Syria and Afghanistan, with claims of forced voluntary return forms that go against the principle of non-refoulement. Türkiye is working to align with international standards and improve oversight of deportation processes.

Additionally, issues like child labor and lack of school access for refugee children persist, with many Syrian children still out of school.

Recommendations

1. **Increase Global Support:** Türkiye urges the international community to share responsibility through funding, resettlement programs, and technical assistance. Countries like Türkiye host most of the world's refugees and need fair support.
2. **Strengthen Legal Systems:** Nations should adopt clear asylum laws based on the 1951 Refugee Convention, ensuring no forced returns and access to rights like education and work. Türkiye supports removing geographical limits in global refugee policies for equal protection.
3. **Promote Integration:** Host countries should create policies that help refugees join labor markets and schools. Türkiye backs cash-based programs to encourage self-reliance and reduce aid dependency.
4. **Tackle Root Causes:** The global community must focus on resolving conflicts and supporting development in countries of origin to reduce displacement. Türkiye supports peace efforts in Syria and other conflict zones for safe, voluntary returns.
5. **Protect Vulnerable Groups:** Extra focus should be on groups like women, children, and people with disabilities. Türkiye supports projects that improve access to services, like rehabilitation for refugees with disabilities.

Conclusion

The Republic of Türkiye remains dedicated to protecting the human rights of refugees and IDPs, despite significant challenges. Through its experience and partnerships with groups like UNHCR and the EU, Türkiye calls for a global approach that focuses on shared responsibility, legal protections, and lasting integration. We urge the SOCHUM to support efforts that address displacement causes, strengthen cooperation, and ensure the dignity and rights of all displaced people.

References

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