



PATHWAYS TO  
PROSPERITY  
Promoting Welcoming Communities in Canada



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# No Home for Syrians: Reflections from Turkey

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# Syrian Refugees in Numbers

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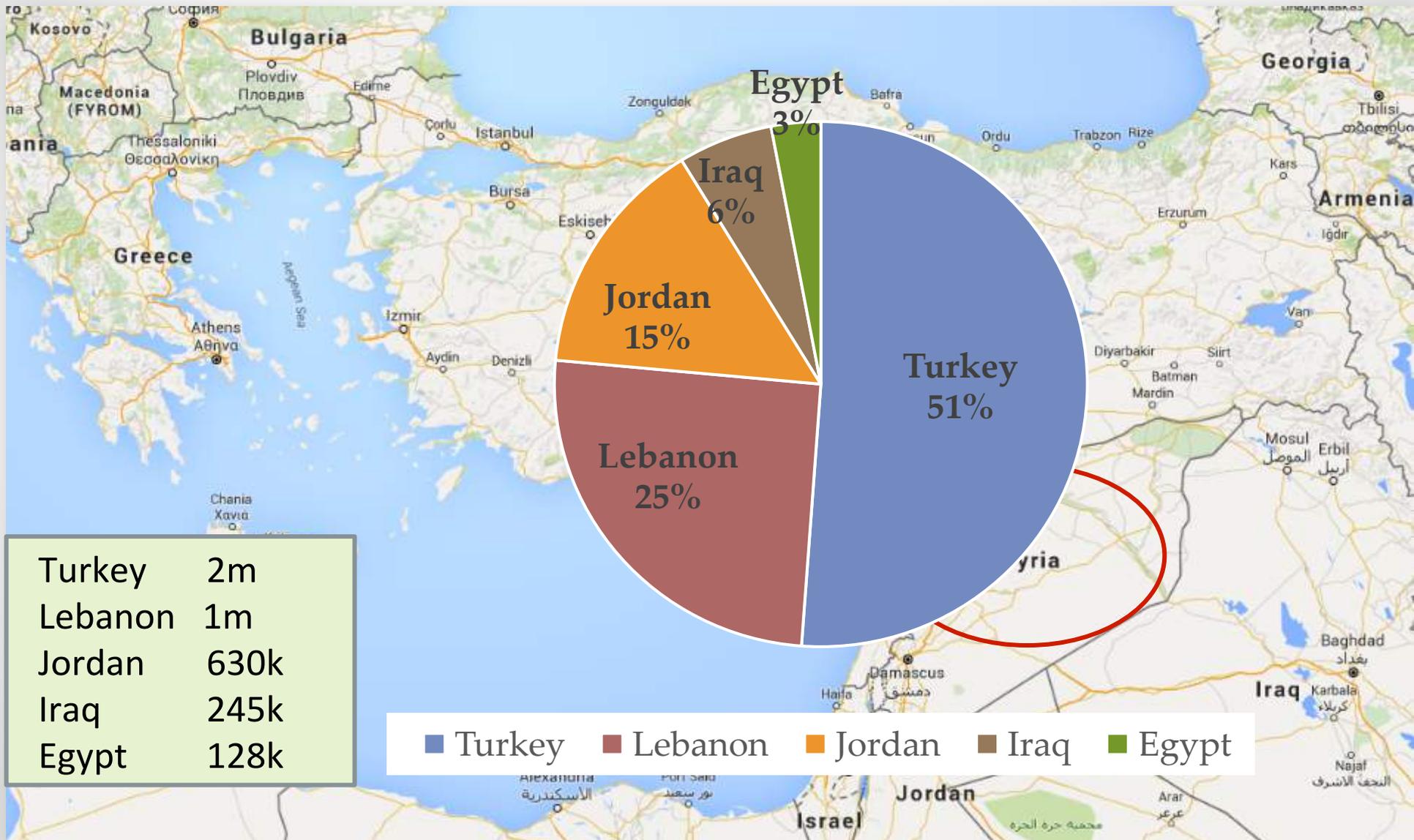


# Major source countries of refugees



- Syria is the top source country of refugees
- Largest displaced population worldwide
- 1 in 4 refugees is Syrian

# Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries



# Syrian Refugees in Turkey



# Arriving Turkey

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- “Open border” policy (?)
  - Wait times vary
  - Human smugglers
- Passport
  - High cost
  - Long processing time



*“If you have a Free Syrian Army ID, they would let you cross the border without checking your bags or anything...”  
(Yasir, 25)*

# Legal status

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- “Guests” (2011)
- Law on Foreigners and International Protection (2014)
- Temporary protection
- Mass migration



# Application for asylum

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- ASAM - UNHCR partner
- min. 2 years



# Lost generation

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149k  
was born in Turkey



400k  
out of school

Stateless,  
uneducated  
children

# Syrians in Turkey

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- 1) Camp refugees (13%)
- 2) Urban refugees (87%)
- 3) Refugees in Transit

# Camp Refugees



# Camp refugees

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25 refugee camps in 11 cities  
6 container, 19 tent cities

275.000  
refugees

# Urban Refugees

(1.7 million)

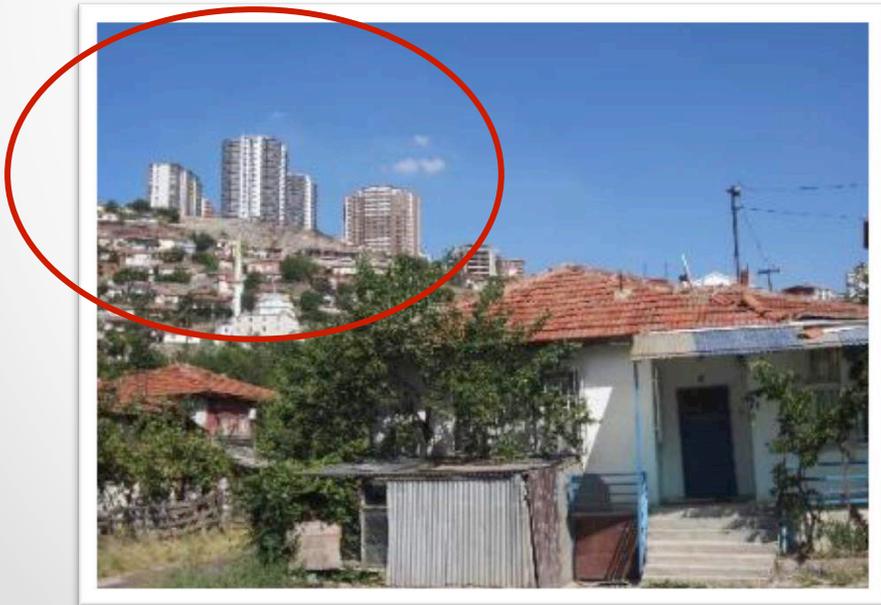


Observations in Ankara

# Housing

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- No housing allowance
  - Homeless refugees
- Önder district, Ankara
  - Industrial area
  - Urban transformation project





# Households

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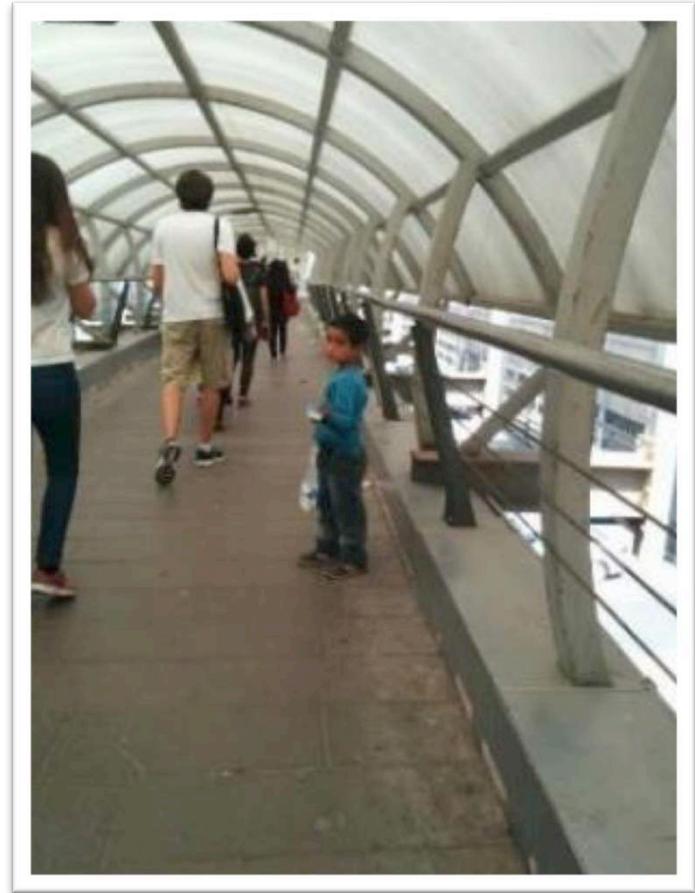
- 2-3 families
- Basic furniture



# Survival

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- Informal labour market
- Begging
- Help of neighbours
- Starvation
- Prostitution
- Child marriage



# Employment

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- Cheap labour, child labour
- Main sectors: Construction, agriculture, manufacturing
- 10-14 hours a day/ 6 to 7 days a week

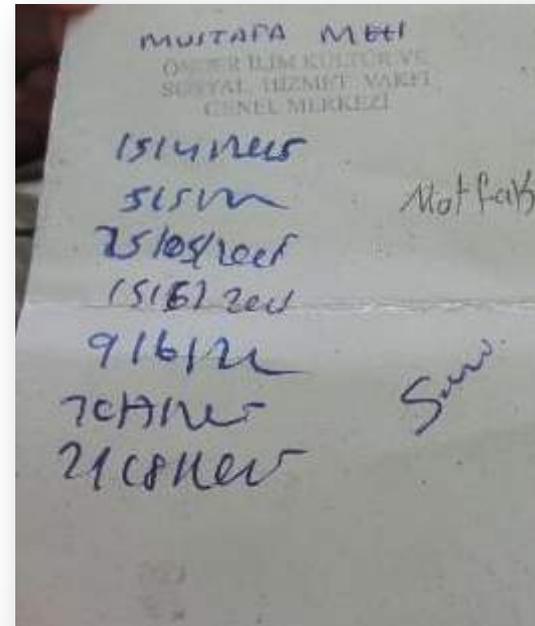


*“I am paid 40 tl per day and consider myself one of the luckiest. I get exhausted everyday, working 12 hours, carrying heavy loads...” (Amed, 32)*

# Social assistance



- No systematic assistance by local or national authorities

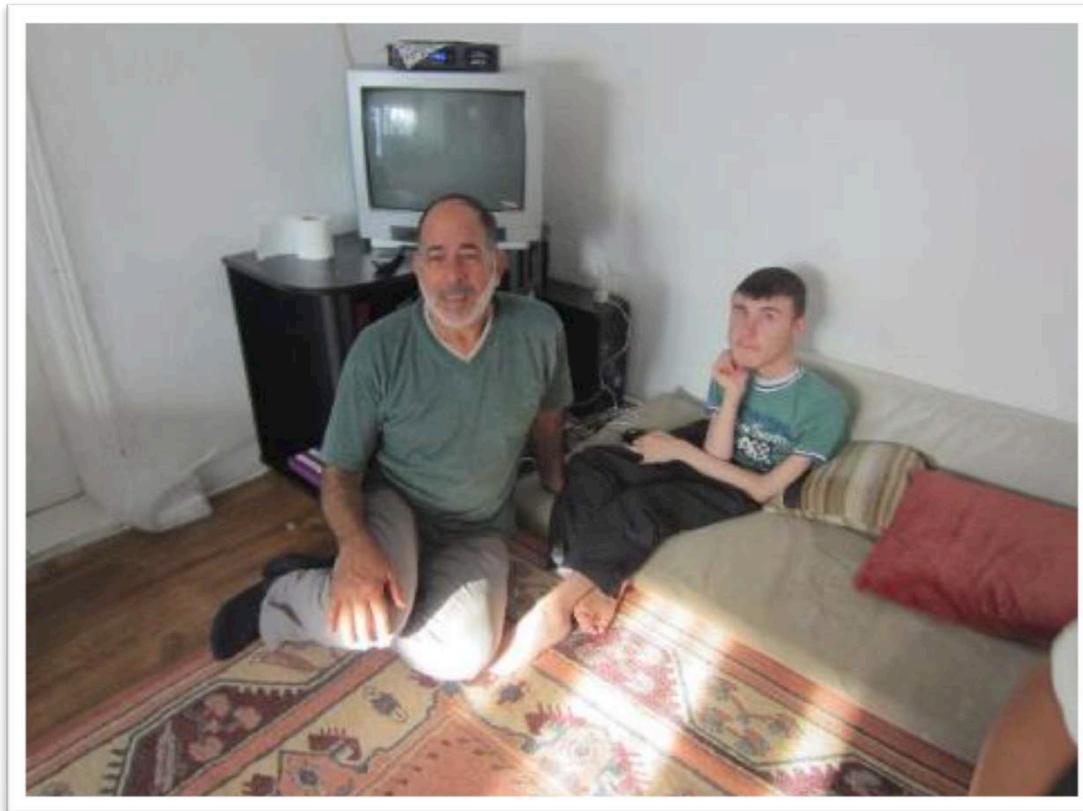




# Health care

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- Access to basic health care
- Limited access to information and registration



# Social integration

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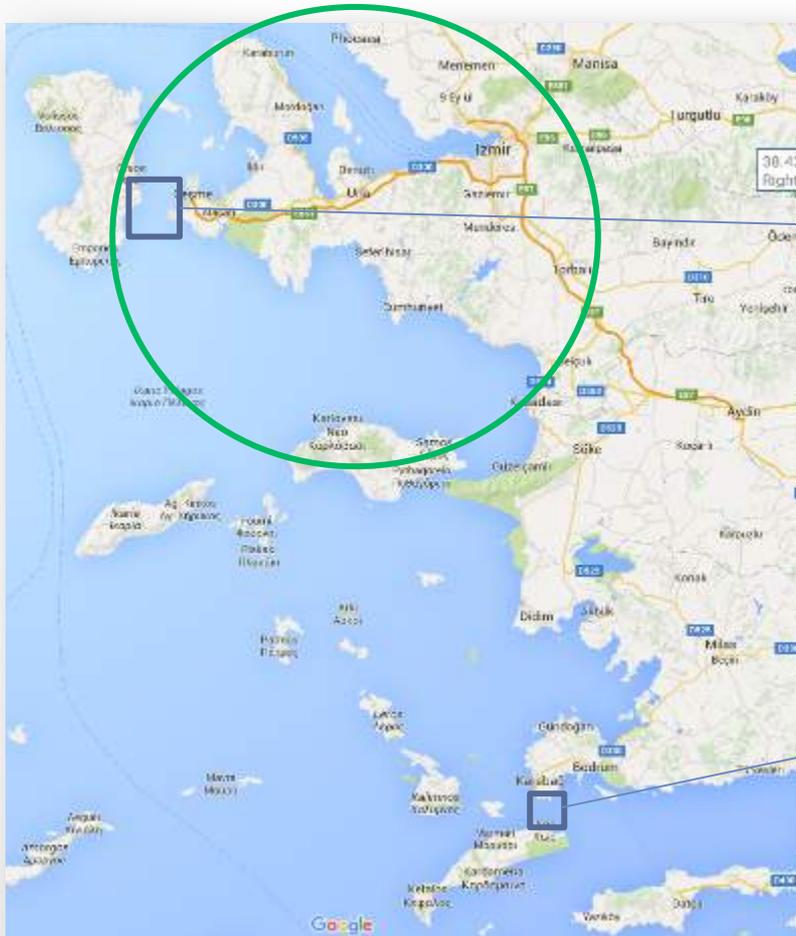
- Host society:
  - Social tensions
  - Myths about government spendings
  - Cheap labour → unemployment among host population → hostility against Syrians
- Administrative:
  - Lack of integration programs (employment, housing, language courses, etc.)

# Transit Refugees



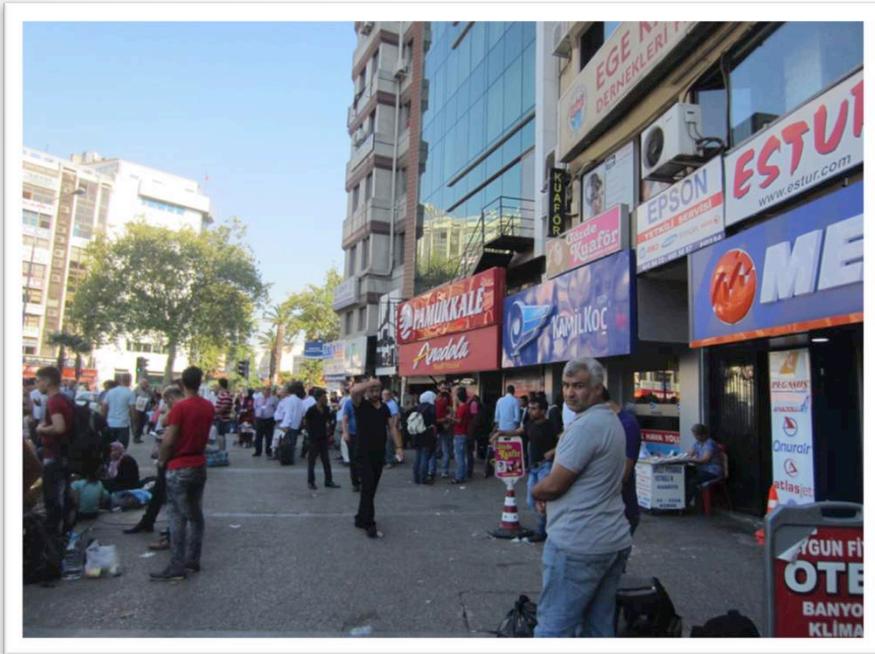
Observations in Izmir

# Gate to Europe



# Basmane district

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- Point of arrival & departure



# Streets of Basmane

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- Hotel district – no vacancy, not affordable for many
- Need money for smugglers



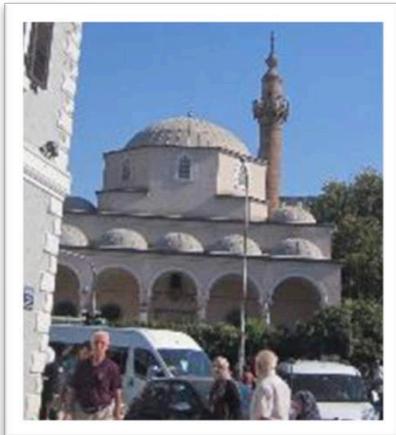
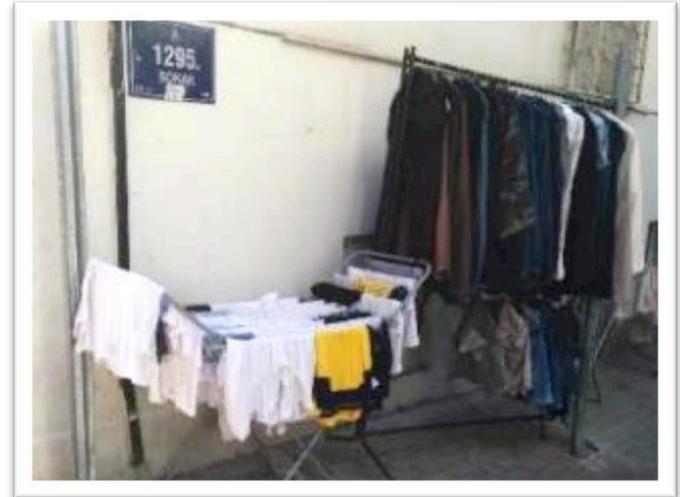
# Streets of Basmane

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# Sanitation

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# Stores

- Life-jacket & rubber ring capital



# Packing for Europe

- Life jacket
- A change of clothes
- Lemon/sea-sickness tablets
- Passports, IDs, documents
- Laser pen
- Bandages
- Dates



*“We have a reality that’s forced upon us” (Ali, 19)*

# Passage? to Europe

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- Human smugglers

*“They take their money, put them on boats, and send them to death” (Cem, activist, 52)*

- Died/killed: 3K (in 2015)
- People reached the European destination: over 300K...



# Conclusion - Main issues

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- No realistic future in Turkey
  - Legal refugee status
  - Uncertainty and mistrust
  - Employment
  - Schooling
  - Housing
  - Social assistance
  - Social tensions in the society
- Risk lives to build a new life in Europe

*“Nobody would like to stay here under these conditions because legally, you are a nobody.” Fathi, 32*

# Recommendations

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- Urban refugees
  - Rights and status
  - Measures for integration (housing, health and employment)
- Refugees in transit
  - Abolish reliance on illegal means
  - Safe passage - URGENT!
  - Increased regional policy and protection
- International community
  - Financial support to host countries
  - Policies for welcoming Syrians and save lives

- QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: [serdogan@yorku.ca](mailto:serdogan@yorku.ca)

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