



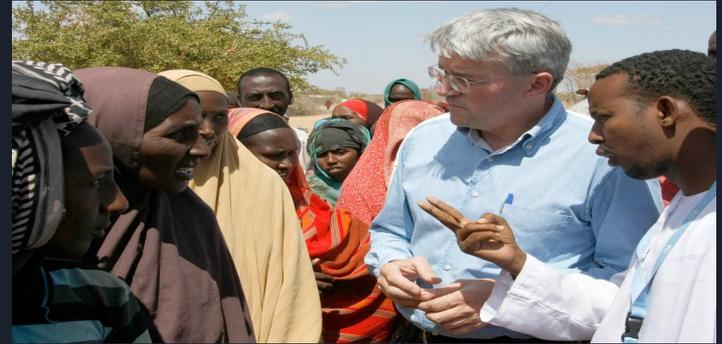
Attitude to refugees



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Introduction - What is a refugee?

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.



Attitude to refugees in different countries - Bulgaria

As studies show Bulgaria has a fear of refugees and a lot of arguments against them. The country's migration policy emphasizes on building a fence, with the argument of securing the whole EU territory. Most of the young people agree that: "They (refugees) see Bulgaria as something temporary, not permanent"; "In reality they are not here for that. Either they want to go to Western Europe or want to go home, all to be over and to go back home". One of the towns that don't appreciate refugees is Belene which became famous throughout the country due to an unsuccessful integration attempt to settle a single refugee family from Syria. They put great pressure over the family and finally, their decision to leave the town not long after they have arrived.





Attitude to refugees in different countries - Great Britain

In Great Britain immigration and asylum amongst the most important political issues in the UK, as well as in many other European countries. However attitudes towards immigration, including to different types of migrants, vary widely since they are influenced by many factors. In particular, the formation of people's attitudes depends on a complex mix of personal circumstances, values and the external environment and challenging these often requires action at the local and national level. In the period since 1997, asylum and migration issues have been the subject of extensive political and policy debate in the UK. The Labour government responded to increased migratory pressures by constructing a discourse of 'managed migration' which was generally positive towards migrants arriving for economic reasons (particularly those who were highly skilled) but negative towards other groups of migrants, most notably asylum seekers and those who enter the UK illegally.

Attitude to refugees in different countries - Netherlands

The poor security situation in some parts of the world has caused an increase in the number of refugees in Europe. The ongoing war in Syria has forced many people to seek safety elsewhere. To manage this influx effectively, the Netherlands have agreed to divide 120,000 refugees across the various member states.



The Netherlands are generally positive towards refugees. They want to contribute to better reception in safe countries in the region, for instance Turkey and Jordan, so that refugees can find protection there. In this way the government wants to prevent refugees from falling victim to people smugglers or risking their lives on dangerous boat crossings to the Netherlands.

Attitude to refugees in different countries - Greece

Since the beginning of 2015 almost one million people have passed through the coast of Turkey in one of the Greek islands, trying to reach one of the rich countries of northern Europe. Initially people living in Greece underestimated the problem and the size of refugees coming from the east. They believe that this is totally unfair since thousands of refugees arrive in Greece daily, and the country is given very little help and financial funding and support from the E.U. to deal with the problem, even though this is a common European problem. “Furthermore, it all happens during a period where Greece is literally struggling to survive and heal its own wounds.” - is also one of their arguments. According to the arguments Greek people are generally negative towards refugees.

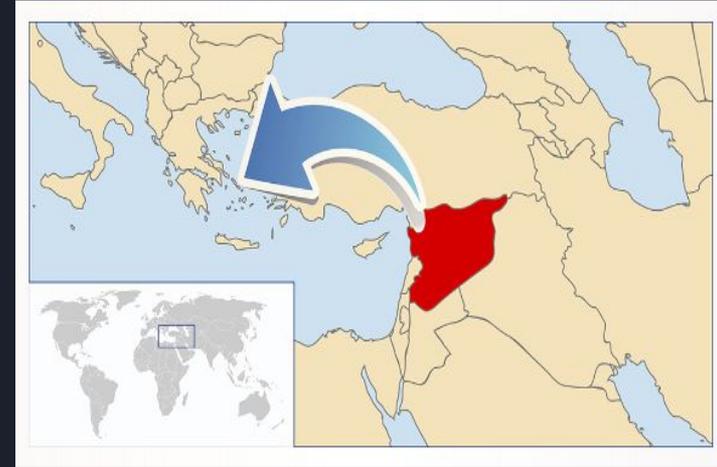


Figure 1: Attitudes towards immigration by region (%)

In your view, should immigration in this country be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?





How can we help
refugees in Poland?

Donating

You can donate clothes to a local, temporary "crisis shelter" in your area. These are the items currently needed by refugees:

- › Winter clothing (coats, sweaters, shoes, scarfs, gloves and hats)
- › Underwear of all kinds for all ages
- › Suitcases, travel bags, bicycles
- › Workout clothes and jogging pants
- › Strollers, baby buggies and maxi-cosi's
- › Hygiene products (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, tampons etc.)



Volunteering

You can volunteer at one of the shelters in your area or volunteer in a grassroots project. These incredible grassroots projects that are filling gaps in basic aid, running community centres, mobile medical support, social support, education, goods distribution, providing legal advice and so much more. Volunteer and run in marathons help gain food and money for the refugees. They need your help.



Host refugees and asylum seekers in your home.

I know this might sound weird but help refugees where you are. Local religious groups can offer a way to be connected with refugees who could use your spare room; if you want to be involved, ask for a recommendation. A European organization invites people to welcome refugees to dinner. Help them feel better in a new culture. Even small gestures of friendship can mean a great deal. Religious groups and local nonprofits often have refugee programs; a quick Google search can show you what's active in your area.



Hold awareness and fundraising events.

Do this wherever you are, in your communities, schools or workplace. Run a half marathon, do a sponsored swim, put on a raffle or a yard sale. Online websites make it easy for your supporters to donate — just register your event, spread the word, and your friends, family and colleagues can all donate securely online. If you'd like to use UN Refugee Agency materials and resources such as banners, T-shirts or posters, contact your local UNHCR office. Encourage your school to hold such events to build homes for refugees or give them food to survive.





Thank you for watching my presentation



Erasmus+

Website sources: www.unrefugees.org, www.britishcouncil.com, www.cream-migration.org,
www.government.nl, www.eurocharity.gr, www.odi.org, www.iamexpat.nl, idea.ted.com