

# Reading Resources: Exit West

Refugees and the Difficulty of Integration



## A READING RESOURCE PACKET FOR EDUCATORS

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*Book Club Workshop*

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## USING THIS RESOURCE GUIDE

**NOTE:** Many of these descriptions were excerpted directly from the source website.



Recommended Resource



Visual Media



Audio



Charts and Graphs



Lesson Plans



English/Language Arts



Fun Facts

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*AND TELL US YOUR STORY.*

**“We are all migrants  
through time.”**

**MOHSIN HAMID**

*Exit West*



**Libro.fm**  
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# Syrian Civil War

## Syrian Civil War Map

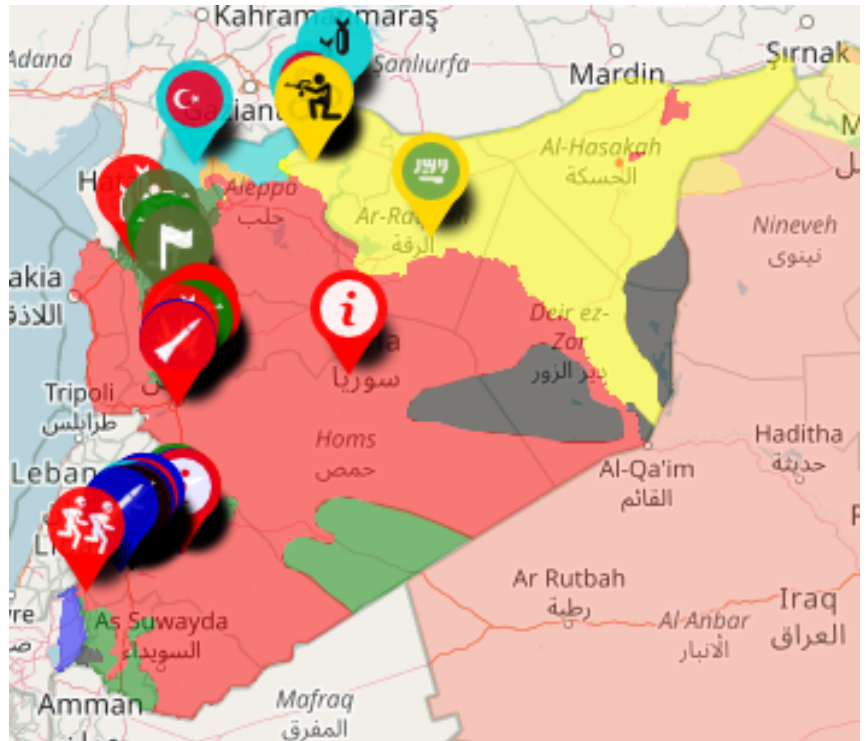
<https://syriancivilwarmap.com/>

Website contains a live and interactive map of the Syrian Civil War and Iraqi War. Creators state that they are dedicated to delivering the latest news as well as the most accurate and unbiased information about the Syrian and Iraqi conflict.

## Syrian Civil War Fast Facts

<https://www.cnn.com/2013/08/27/world/meast/syria-civil-war-fast-facts/index.html>

CNN Article that provides some facts regarding the origins of the Syrian Civil War, as well as a relatively in depth timeline.



## Syria's Civil War Explained from the Beginning

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/05/syria-civil-war-explained-160505084119966.html>

A very recent Aljazeera article explains various aspects of the war from the beginning to present day. The article has several accompanying videos that aid in understanding the causes of the war and of its implications on individual and international levels. Videos range from 25:00-45:00 minutes long.



## Lesson Plan Idea!

Teaching About the Syrian Refugee Crisis: <http://www.iamsyria.org/teaching-about-the-refugee-crisis-and-making-a-difference.html>

This website includes numerous lesson plans and videos to assist you in teaching your students about the Syrian refugee crisis. You will find a PowerPoint, printouts, video, and essay prompts. Additionally you will find information about what the next step is and help students take action.



## I Am A Syrian Child



<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2015/07/syria-refugee-crisis-150709120935092.html>

This documentary provides insight to the impact of the Syrian civil war as seen through the eyes of refugee children. This link also has an accompanying article about the challenges that these children will face and the actions that need to be taken to help them.

# Life in a War Zone and Beyond



**War and what comes next:** [https://www.ted.com/talks/clematine\\_wamariya\\_war\\_and\\_what\\_comes\\_after](https://www.ted.com/talks/clematine_wamariya_war_and_what_comes_after)

In this TED Talk, Clematine Wamariya talks about her experience of being forced out of her home with her sister at the age of six due to the Rwandan Civil War. She tells the story of how she became a refugee, living in camps in seven countries over the next six years -- and how she's tried to make sense of what came after. (12:43)



**Escaping the Khmer Rouge:** [https://www.ted.com/talks/sophal\\_ear\\_escaping\\_the\\_khmer\\_rouge?referrer=playlist-refugees\\_welcome](https://www.ted.com/talks/sophal_ear_escaping_the_khmer_rouge?referrer=playlist-refugees_welcome)

TED Fellow Sophal Ear shares the compelling story of his family's escape from Cambodia under the rule of the Khmer Rouge. He recounts his mother's cunning and determination to save her children. (5:52)



**A young poet tells the story of Darfur:** [https://www.ted.com/talks/emtithal\\_mahmoud\\_a\\_young\\_poet\\_tells\\_the\\_story\\_of\\_darfur](https://www.ted.com/talks/emtithal_mahmoud_a_young_poet_tells_the_story_of_darfur)



Emtithal "Emi" Mahmoud writes poetry of resilience, confronting her experience of escaping the genocide in Darfur in verse. She shares two stirring original poems about refugees, family, joy and sorrow, asking, "Will you witness me?"



**What it's like to be a parent in a war zone:** [https://www.ted.com/talks/aala\\_el\\_khani\\_what\\_it\\_s\\_like\\_to\\_be\\_a\\_parent\\_in\\_a\\_war\\_zone](https://www.ted.com/talks/aala_el_khani_what_it_s_like_to_be_a_parent_in_a_war_zone)

In this warm-hearted talk, psychologist Aala El-Khani shares her work supporting -- and learning from -- refugee families affected by the civil war in Syria.



**Yusra Mardini, A Young Refugee, Finds Safety in Her New Home:** <http://webtv.un.org/topics-issues/watch/yusra-mardini-a-young-refugee-finds-safety-in-her-new-home/5476688438001/?term=?lanenglish&sort=date>

In this United Nations Department of Public Information animated video you hear the dramatic story of Yusra Mardini, a young refugee from conflict-torn Syria who achieved her dream to compete in the Olympics

## **Lesson Plan Ideas!**



**Refugee Stories:** <https://www.choices.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/choices-twtn-refugees-refugee-stories.pdf>

This is a printable plan that includes several short stories of refugees from countries such as Syria, Sudan, Iran, Afghanistan, and Somalia.

**Mapping One Refugee's Journey:** <https://www.choices.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/choices-twtn-refugees-mapping-refugee-journey.pdf>

This activity will give students a chance to map out their journey and look at the reasons behind refugees' decisions on where and how to travel, and the challenges they face.



## The Journey West

Exit West specifically chooses to avoid the topic of the physical journey refugees face while escaping west in order to focus on the issues people face once they arrive. However, it is important to recognize the extreme danger that these individuals are facing when they do make the journey westward.

### **A Week on Board a Refugee Recovery Ship**

<http://time.com/refugee-rescue/>

TIME article explaining the lengths refugees take in order to cross the Mediterranean Sea. Additionally, it tells the story of the rescue teams in the Mediterranean placed there to patrol for boats that may need assistance.

### **The Refugee Project**

<http://www.therefugeeproject.org/#/2016>



Migrants pass the life jackets being handed out by the search-and-rescue teams with Médecins Sans Frontières and SOS Méditerranée off the coast of Libya, Aug. 21, 2016.

<http://time.com/refugee-rescue/>

This website provides an active map from 1975 to 2016 of refugee populations and travel routes. By clicking on any country on the map, you can see the possible destinations for refugees and how many refugees went to each. Additionally, it also shows the number of refugees in the world at any given time.

### **Understanding refugee and migrant journeys to Europe**

<https://www.odi.org/events/4526-understanding-refugee-and-migrant-journeys-europe>

This recorded panel discussion “explores the messy reality of refugee and migrant journeys, and delves into the decisions people make along the way, challenging the assumption that ‘everyone wants to come to Europe.’”

### **Lesson Plan Ideas!**



**Two Billion Miles:** <http://twobillionmiles.com/>

Take your students on a “two billion mile” journey through rough terrain, rough waters, and unfamiliar territory. In this interactive video you get a chance to see parts of various people’s journeys and choose the next path. After watching the video, you can ask your students how their perceptions have changed.

**Against All Odds: Game:** <http://www.gamesforchange.org/game/against-all-odds/>

This game offers a short challenge about the global refugee experience and illustrates the complexity and danger of that experience.

# Refugee Crisis Statistics

## Migrant crisis: Migration to Europe explained in seven charts

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911>

BBC article produced to use visual aid in order to better understand the mass migration happening over the Mediterranean Sea from 2015-2016. Each graph shows a different aspect of the migration crisis with a small blurb to help understand the graph.

## Net migration to Germany sank by half in 2016: statistics office

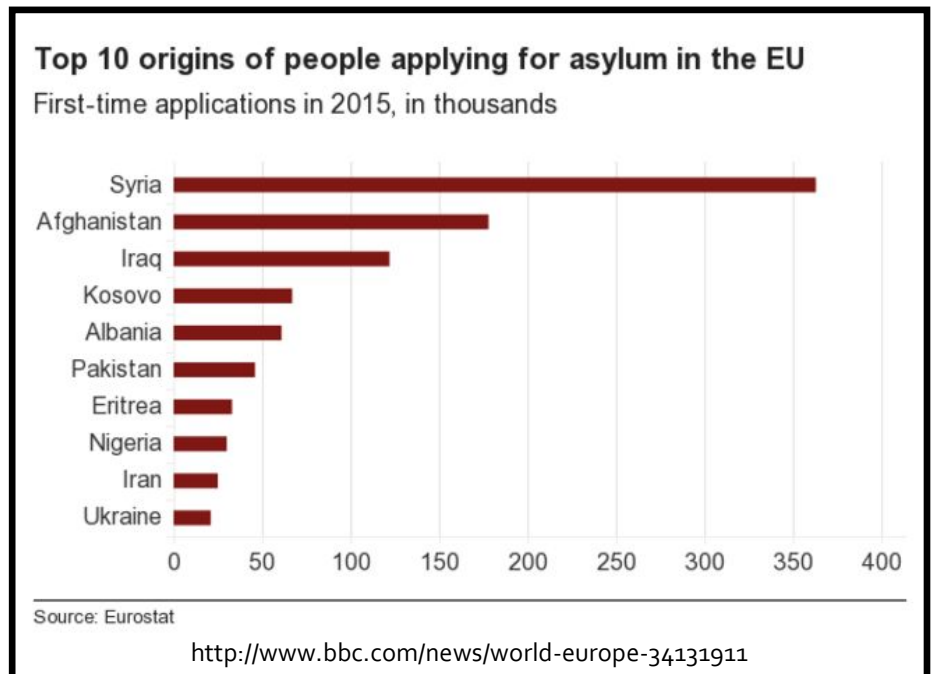
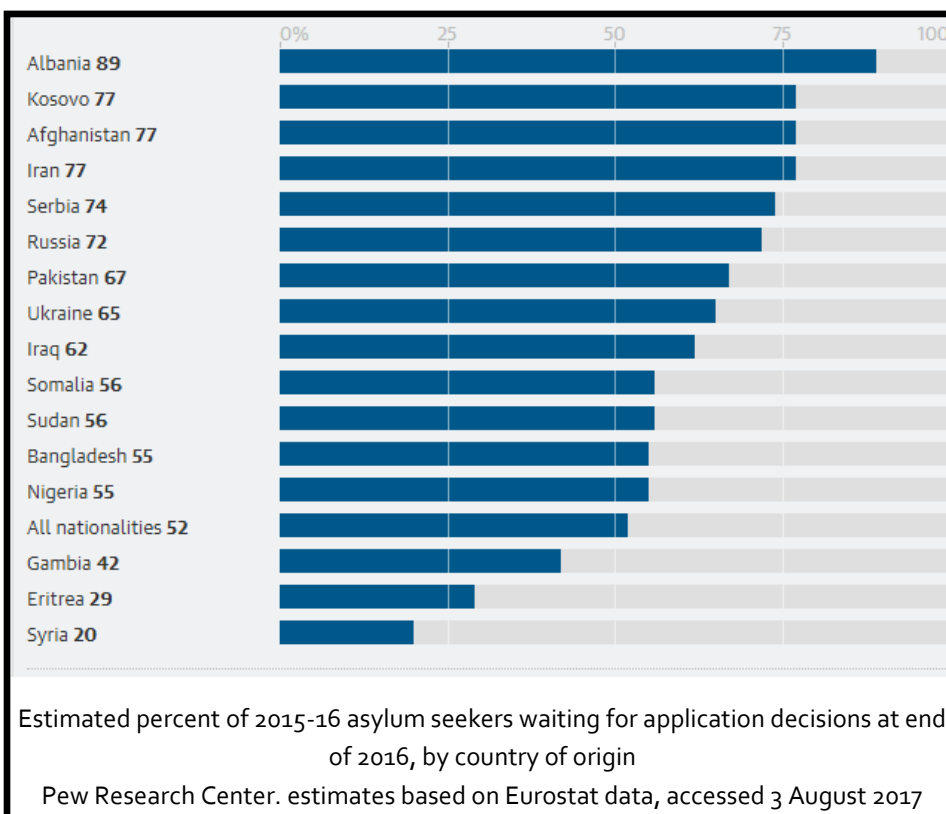
<http://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/8057/net-migration-to-germany-sank-by-half-in-2016-statistics-office>

A very brief article that explains the slowing down of refugee migration to Germany in each subsequent year. It is important to note however, that the number of people immigrating to Germany is still very high.

## Germany's foreign population reaches record 10.6 million

<http://www.dw.com/en/germanys-foreign-population-reaches-record-106-million/a-43353320>

Despite the leveling off or even decrease in immigration to Germany, the vast majority of the immigrant and refugee population is still in Germany. With the addition of a large number of Eastern Europeans, Germany's foreign population has reached record heights.



## More than a million of Europe's asylum seekers left in limbo

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/20/more-than-a-million-of-europes-asylum-seekers-left-in-limbo>

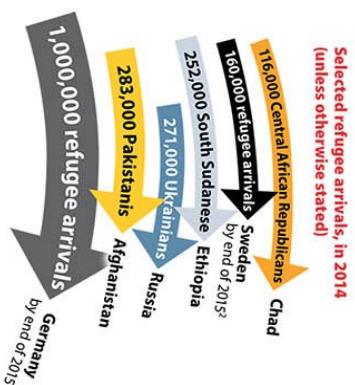
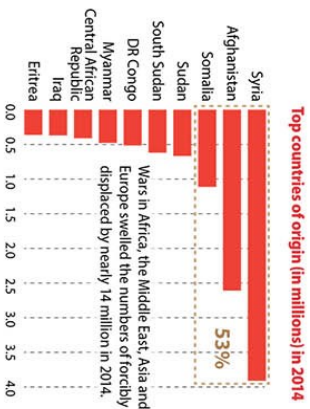
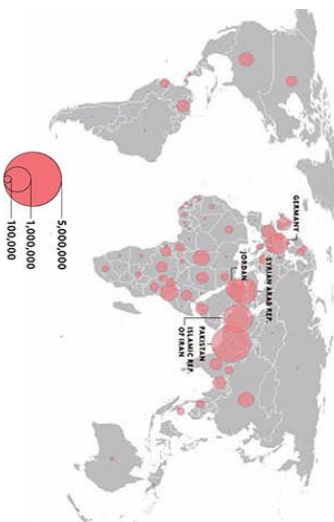
This Guardian article provides numbers regarding the number of people who applied for asylum, the number who were actually accepted, and most importantly the number who are still waiting for an answer on their application.

## World at war<sup>1</sup>

### WHERE PEOPLE ARE COMING FROM

War, deteriorating security and human rights concerns in a number of countries – notably Syria – are among the main drivers of a sharp increase in asylum-seekers and refugees worldwide.

**Location of refugees and persons of concern to UNHCR in 2015**



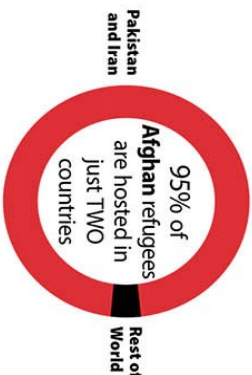
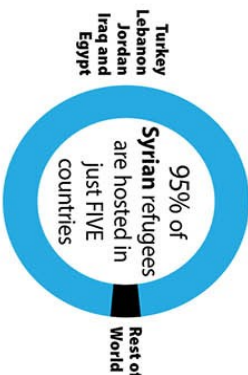
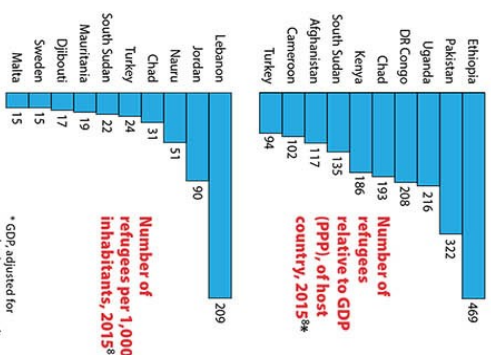
## Global refugee crisis – THE FACTS

### It's not all about you<sup>1</sup>

#### WHERE PEOPLE ARE FLEEING TO

Most refugees do not seek protection in the industrialized world. Nearly 9 out of 10 people find shelter in neighbouring countries, while an even greater number are internally displaced.

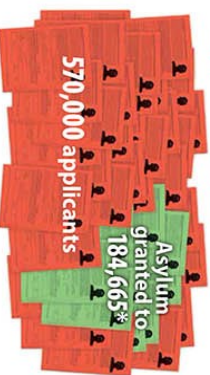
**Global population displaced by conflict in 2014**



**Sanctuary not guaranteed**

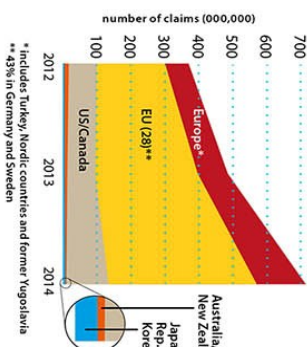
Once asylum seekers have run the gauntlet of arriving in safe countries, they may not be granted refugee status.

**Applications for asylum, EU 2014<sup>3</sup>**



\*Applying for asylum can be a lengthy process, so many of those given refugee status may have applied in previous years.

**Asylum claims lodged in selected regions of the industrialized world<sup>1</sup>**

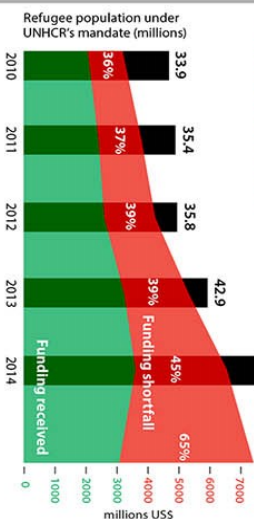


## Seeking security

### WHY PEOPLE KEEP MOVING

UNHCR is chronically underfunded. As food rations shrink or disappear and school places evaporate, families vote with their feet.

**UNHCR budget shortfall<sup>1\*</sup>**



**Funding shortfall for UNHCR top 5 emergencies, as of November 2015<sup>1</sup>**

Emergency	Amount requested	Funding	% funded
Syria regional response	4.53 billion	2.31 billion	51
South Sudan	1.64 billion	950 million	58
Yemen	1.6 billion	780 million	49
Iraq	704 million	422 million	60
Nepal earthquake	422 million	269 million	64

**A question of priorities**

**Total UN emergencies budget shortfall (in billions) 2015<sup>5,6</sup>**

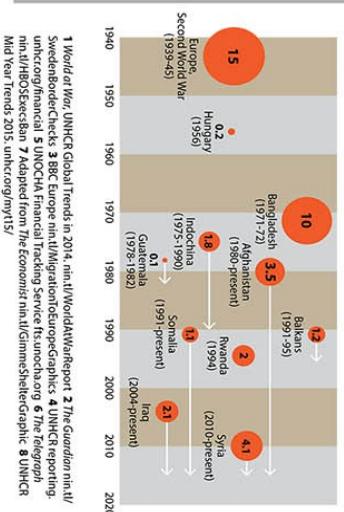
**\$10.3**

**\$10** billion estimated annual cost for US to bomb ISIS in Syria.

## Hello again, crisis

The current upheaval in Syria is causing large numbers of people to flee. But it isn't for the first time – and it won't be the last.

**Selected population movements forced by conflict (1940-2015) in millions<sup>7</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> World of War, UNHCR Global Trends in 2014, [m.10WorldWarReport](http://m.10WorldWarReport) <sup>2</sup> The Guardian <sup>3</sup> UNHCR <sup>4</sup> UNHCR <sup>5</sup> UNHCR <sup>6</sup> UNHCR <sup>7</sup> UNHCR <sup>8</sup> UNHCR



## Turkey and the EU

### EU-Turkey refugee deal – Q&A

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/08/eu-turkey-refugee-deal-qa>

A Guardian article that provides the basic information about what the EU-Turkey “one in, one out” deal entails. Additionally, the article explores a few key questions about the implications of the deal for Turkey, the EU, and for the refugees.

### EU-Turkey Statement: Two Years On

[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20180314\\_eu-turkey-two-years-on\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20180314_eu-turkey-two-years-on_en.pdf)

Produced in April 2018 by the EU Commission of Migration and Home Affairs, this document sheds light on the successes of the EU-Turkey agreement put into place in 2016. The document provides graphical representations regarding the amount of people and money that Turkey has taken on from the EU.

### Turkey's Bid for Acceptance to the EU: Factsheet 2018

[file:///C:/Users/gc2/Downloads/MEMO-18-3407\\_EN.pdf](file:///C:/Users/gc2/Downloads/MEMO-18-3407_EN.pdf)

Despite the many issues that prevent Turkey from gaining membership to the EU, the “one in, one out” policy has remained a critical point for Turkish officials to use in their argument for acceptance. The linked document is a factsheet produced by the EU which covers many different aspects of the current Turkish situation and how it might affect their eligibility to join the EU (migration being one of these aspects).

### EU-Turkey Migrant Deal in Peril

<https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-turkey-migrant-deal-cavusoglu-news-erdogan-netherlands/>

Written a year after the deal was made, this Politico article brings to light some of the issues that the deal has produced. These issues range from human rights failures to logistical breakdowns causing integration to become unnecessarily difficult.



### The Migration Dilemma: EU Weighs Impact of its Deal with Turkey

<https://www.ft.com/content/179de308-2c2b-11e8-a34a-7e7563b0b0f4>

An excellent summation of the deal, its motives for both the EU and Turkey, and of the critiques the deal has faced. Also, the Financial Times released this article in March 2018 making it a very recent account of the side effects of the deal.



Syrian Kurdish refugees who fled Kobani make do in a refugee camp in Suruc, on the Turkey-Syria border on Saturday.

<https://www.npr.org/2014/10/11/355340451/turkeys-troubles-complicate-u-s-battle>



# Difficulty Integrating

## **German study links increased crime rate to migrant arrivals**

<http://www.dw.com/en/german-study-links-increased-crime-rate-to-migrant-arrivals/a-42006484>

An article that discusses the Zurich University of Applied Sciences study on the correlation between the increased number of immigrants and the increasing crime rate in Germany. The German state of Lower Saxony witnessed a 10.4 percent increase in crime at the height of the migration crisis, according to a study.

## **Study: Only better integration will reduce migrant crime rate**

<http://www.dw.com/en/study-only-better-integration-will-reduce-migrant-crime-rate/a-42013143>

In rebuttal to the previous article, Zurich University of Applied Sciences conducted a second study and found that there are ways to better integrate the immigrant population as to address the crime rates and lack of human resources.

## **U.S. guide lays out cultural challenges faced by Syrian refugees**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/syrian-refugee-adjustments-canada-1.3322081>

While most of the refugee coverage since 2015 is focused on the European continent, refugees coming to North America also face integration issues. This article produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. shed light on some of the cultural differences that may present issues in daily life.

**Language barrier leaves refugees facing struggle to rebuild their lives:** <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/nov/16/language-barrier-refugees-english-classes-integration-esol>

We often talk about the difficulties of those who lack English skills, however, the difficulties of refugees goes far beyond that. This article explores both the challenges of those who are learning English and those with college degrees.

## **Life After Recognition: the difficulties of integration for recognized refugees in Hungary:**

<http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/blog/2016/04/19/life-after-recognition-the-difficulties-of-integration-for-recognised-refugees-in-hungary/>

This article focuses on the difficulties of refugees in Hungary after they have been recognized for their refugee status. It follows an Afghan family as they learn about the problems associated with Hungary's refugee integration policy. In addition, there is a 4:44 minute video showing one of the family members house hunting.



A "closed" sign hangs on the gates of Debrecen refugee reception center.

Source: Laczko Kornel, vagy.hu

# Refugee Identity

## **Feeling like an outsider: a case study of refugee identity in the Czech Republic**

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/research/working/510947989/feeling-outsider-case-study-refugee-identity-czech-republic-kari-burnett.html>

A case study produced by the UN Refugee Agency that provided insight into how refugees might have some difficulty claiming an identity. As mentioned in the document, refugees are particularly affected by this issue because they were forced to flee due to uncontrollable factors. This may make it easier to sever ties to their homeland, but that does not mean it is easier to integrate into their new society.



## **Losing Identity During the Refugee Crisis**

<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/05/balancing-integration-and-assimilation-during-the-refugee-crisis/482757/>

Mainly focusing on language, this article explores the different feeling of both refugees and local people toward refugees maintaining their culture or assimilating into the local culture. There is also a heavy focus on the classroom and .5 or first generation students assimilating into the local culture and/or identity.



Ele Cundi, 5, a Syrian refugee, poses as she sits with friends in kindergarten at Midyat refugee camp in Turkey

<https://www.theatlantic.com>

## **Migration, Cultural Bereavement and Cultural Identity**

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1414713/>

While this scholarly document is relatively dense, its goal to bring to light the negative mental health effects of identity struggle faced by immigrants.

## **Accommodating refugee identity transitions: How adult education hinders or helps refugee lifelong learning needs**

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/educol/documents/000001016.htm>

A pilot study conducted in the UK by the University of Surrey. After a series of 16 interviews with refugees, "findings from the pilot study suggest that refugees and asylum seekers are often disempowered as much by the receiving country as from their original experience of flight."

## **The arrival of hundreds of thousands of migrants is fueling a German identity crisis**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/the-arrival-of-hundreds-of-thousands-of-migrants-is-fueling-a-german-identity-crisis/2017/05/31/>

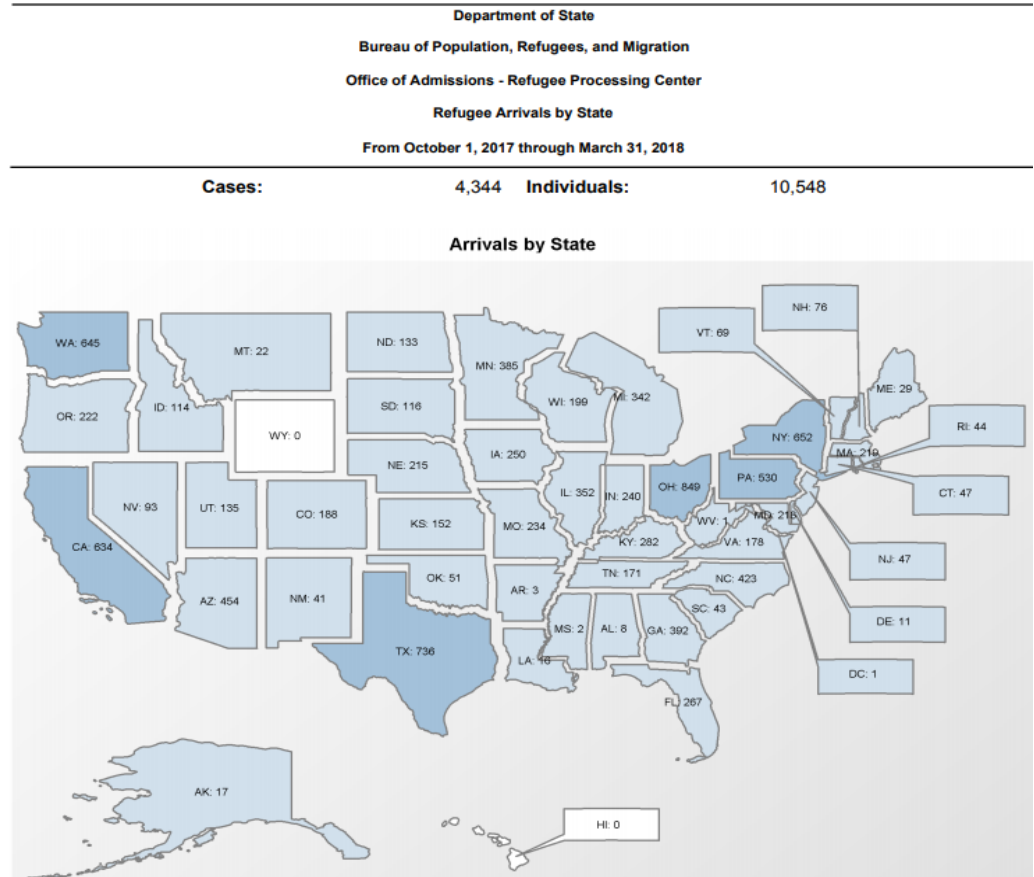
A different look at identity struggles focusing on the host nation's perspective.

# Immigration in Washington and Seattle

Department of State: Refugee Arrivals by State

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/580e4274e58c624696efadc6/t/5ac65b922b6a28e84000473c/1522949010854/Arrivals+by+State++Map4.5.18.pdf>

According to the State Department, Washington has received the third most refugees of all states since October 1, 2017 (Texas being first, and Ohio second).



**Where Seattle's refugees come from and other things you should know**

<http://kuow.org/post/where-seattles-refugees-come-and-other-things-you-should-know>

An excellent article focusing on Washington, its counties, and Seattle in particular. Provides a detailed account of where refugees in Seattle are coming from and how densely populated our area is with refugees. It also provides easy to understand graphics in order to compare data (2016).

**For refugees in Seattle, rising rents mean the search for home isn't over**

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-05-08/refugees-seattle-rising-rents-mean-search-home-isn-t-over>

"Mubalama, 36, has made it his mission to help his fellow Congolese refugees integrate, especially connecting them to basic, affordable housing, which is one of the biggest barriers to starting a new life in Seattle." (May, 2017)

**King County creates an Immigrant and Refugee Commission to expand opportunity and help uphold the region's promise as a welcoming community**

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2018/February/27-immigrant-refugee-commission-ceremony.aspx>

Published in February 2018, King County has announced that it will focus on ensuring the greater Seattle area is welcoming to refugees and immigrants. The article explains its plans in order to reach their goals and why this commission was a necessary step in our region.

<http://komonews.com/news/local/seattle-is-a-welcoming-city-mayor-murray-delivers-thanksgiving-message-to-immigrants>



## Take Action



**What's your story? 2012:** <https://vimeo.com/38345309>

In this 17 minute video, students will have the opportunity to hear stories of students from Newcomers High School about how they were welcomed to this country. While these students are not necessarily refugees, each has gone through their own journey of acceptance. Furthermore, this video provides a powerful example of people taking small steps to help new arrivals.



**Defining Community: The Universe of Obligation:** <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/defining-community-universe-obligation>

This lesson plan will help students explore the implication of a "universe of obligation" for their own lives and communities. Students will have a chance to discuss the role that individuals and communities play in acceptance. This activity while recommended for high school and up can be adapted to work with younger students as well.

**The Importance of Humanizing Refugees:** <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/video/importance-humanizing-refugees>

In this short video clip, students will hear from US Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, about the works she does will solving difficult problems.



**How to help refugees rebuild their world:** [https://www.ted.com/talks/melissa\\_fleming\\_let\\_s\\_help\\_refugees\\_thrive\\_not\\_just\\_survive?referrer=playlist-refugees\\_welcome](https://www.ted.com/talks/melissa_fleming_let_s_help_refugees_thrive_not_just_survive?referrer=playlist-refugees_welcome)

Inside this overwhelming crisis are the individual human stories -- of care, growth and family, in the face of lost education, lost home, and lost futures. Melissa Fleming of the UN's refugee agency tells the refugees' stories -- and asks us to help them rebuild their world.



**On Humanity: Chris Abani:** [https://www.ted.com/talks/chris\\_abani\\_muses\\_on\\_humanity?referrer=playlist-refugees\\_welcome](https://www.ted.com/talks/chris_abani_muses_on_humanity?referrer=playlist-refugees_welcome)

Chris Abani tells stories of people: People standing up to soldiers. People being compassionate. People being human and reclaiming their humanity. It's "ubuntu," he says: the only way for me to be human is for you to reflect my humanity back at me.

### **Lesson Plan Idea!**



**UNHCR Refugee Youth Poetry:** [https://www.unhcr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/poetry\\_book.pdf](https://www.unhcr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/poetry_book.pdf)

Here you will find a collection of poetry written by refugee students. Have your students choose a poem or group of poems to read. What is each poem about? Who wrote the poem? What connections do students see between the poem that they read and what they have learned about the refugee crisis? You may wish to have students address these questions in a class discussion or in a short written response as homework. You can take it a step further and ask them to write their own poems about taking action and breaking misconceptions about refugees based on what they have learned.