

The EU and the Crisis in Syria

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Asmaa
Syrian refugee in Jordan

"I chose law because I don't like injustice. I've seen many unpleasant things and couldn't do anything about it. Maybe law would help me help people."

Asmaa, 27, crossed the border into Jordan when she was pregnant with her second child. Her husband had just been killed in the war. When her father heard in the news that his missing son was also killed, he had a heart attack and died.

Despite everything she went through Asmaa keeps smiling. She wants to look towards the future. She followed lessons by WhatsApp and passed her high school exam. She received a scholarship to study law.



Hudaifa
13-year-old Palestinian born in Syria

"I want to become a doctor when I grow up. I want to help people; it's a good thing and shows humanity."

Hudaifa came with his family to Lebanon aged nine, when the bombing reached Al-Yarmouk camp. Hudaifa is a chess champion. When he and his family arrived in Lebanon, their father taught them chess so they wouldn't play in the streets.

"Chess teaches us how to go by in life."



Amsha
Lebanese living in East Beirut

"We pay for water to be brought in a water tank and then we fill up our own tank. In winter, when there's snow and ice, we really struggle."

With EU funding, local residents like Amsha and Syrian refugees enjoy access to reliable water services in Lebanon. People can now save 70% of the costs and have clean drinking water.

"Now we can relax, at least. We can even grow some plants on our doorstep."



THE EU AND THE CRISIS IN SYRIA

Nine years after the outbreak of the conflict, the situation in Syria is still critical, with millions of Syrians displaced and in need of protection and humanitarian assistance. The potential for violence remains high, and there is little progress in sight towards a sustainable resolution of the conflict. Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, as well as other host countries in the region such as Egypt and Iraq, have shown extraordinary solidarity towards the refugees, and they continue to need assistance to meet the growing needs of both the refugees and their own communities.]

intra-Syrian dialogue, which is the only one that can ensure international support and legitimacy to the peace process. Furthermore, the EU will maintain its engagement with all regional and international partners and with Syrian civil society to support the UN-led process. It also continues to support the Syrian population, as well as refugees and the communities that host them in neighbouring countries, with humanitarian, development, economic and stabilisation assistance.

The European Union believes that sustainable peace goes hand in hand with the restoration of Syrian social cohesion and dignity, based on justice and equal citizenship. This can only be achieved when all Syrians will feel safe, free and able to live in dignity in their own country.

Only a credible political solution in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254¹ and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué² **will ensure a peaceful future and stability for Syria and the region.** For this reason, the EU continues to work in support of the UN-led Geneva

Our immediate concern is to work towards a lasting ceasefire across the country and engage with all relevant actors for a comprehensive political solution and to address the humanitarian needs of the Syrian people. The Brussels Conference is an effective tool for the EU to support the UN political and humanitarian efforts."

Josep Borrell
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice-President of the Commission

1 - The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 was unanimously adopted on 18 December 2015. It calls for a ceasefire, unhindered humanitarian access and political settlement in Syria.

2 - The Geneva Communiqué was issued on 30 June 2012 after a meeting of the UN-backed Action Group for Syria. It laid out a six-point plan intended to stop the violence and move the two sides towards a political settlement. It was endorsed in the Security Council Resolution 2118/2013.



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Factsheets

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