

REFUGEES

1st) Read the text below and answer the following questions:

Are countries obligated to take in refugees? In some cases, yes



(CNN) Hundreds of thousands of migrants are pounding on Europe's invisible doors -- dirty, exhausted and desperate to escape the daily carnage in their homelands.

But their arrival also puts a strain on European resources. Germany and says it will spend at least 6 billion Euros (\$6.7 billion). Austria, which received 16,000 migrants in just two days, said it won't be able to keep up with this pace.

At the same time, several oil-rich Arab nations closer to the conflict zones have come under harsh criticism because they've taken in virtually no refugees.

So are countries obligated to house refugees? If so, why?

For the most part, it boils down to an international treaty.

What does the treaty say?

The 1951 Refugee Convention was adopted after World War II, when hundreds of thousands of refugees were displaced across Europe.

The treaty defines what refugees are -- those who is seeking refuge from persecution. It also gives them a very important right -- the right to not be sent back home into harm's way, except under extreme circumstances.

"Since, by definition, refugees are not protected by their own governments, the international community steps in to ensure they are safe and protected," said the UNHCR, the United Nations' refugee agency.



And according to the provisions, "refugees deserve, as a minimum, the same standards of treatment enjoyed by other foreign nationals in a given country and, in many cases, the same treatment as nationals," the UNHCR said.

The agency said more than 50 million refugees have been resettled.

How many refugees has Europe taken in this year?

Well over 366,000 refugees have crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Europe this year, the UNHCR said. Another 2,800 attempted the journey, but either died or disappeared.

The vast majority of refugees come from three countries: Iraq, where migrants are fleeing the brutality of ISIS; Afghanistan, which has been devastated by war; and Syria,

where civilians are grappling with both ISIS and indiscriminate attacks in the country's civil war. A country-by-country look at the crisis

What rights do refugees have?

In addition to not getting sent back to their home countries, refugees have several other rights, including:

- The right to not be punished for illegally entering countries that signed on to the treaty;
- The right to housing;
- The right to work;
- Access to education;
- Access to public assistance;
- Access to courts;
- The right to get identification and travel documents



Why aren't Gulf countries taking in refugees?

Since oil-rich Gulf States are close to Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, they'd help absorb some of the refugees, right?

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates have each given millions of dollars to the United Nations to help Syrian refugees. But they haven't housed any of them, according to Amnesty International.

"We've been asking that not only the borders of the region are open, but that all other borders -- especially in the developed world -- are also open," said Antonio Guterres, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Abdul Khaleq Abdulla, a retired professor from United Arab Emirates University, said Gulf States have security on their minds.

"Having refugees also feeds into ISIS' appeal," Abdulla said. "And it feeds into the violence in the region, which is already the most violent region on Earth. So all in all, anything that goes in the neighborhood impacts the security and the stability of the Arab Gulf states who are by far the most stable and the most secure."

And those Gulf States aren't party to the international treaty -- so technically, they don't have to help.

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a) According to the text how were the migrants when they were pounding on Europe's invisible doors?

b) How much will Germany spend?

c) How many migrants Austria received in two days?

d) After what important event was the Refugee Convention adopted?

e) According to the UNHCR how much refugees have been resettled?

f) How many refugees have crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Europe this year?

g) What are some rights that refugees have?

h) What did Antonio Guterres say?

i) Do the Gulf States have to help refugees?

j) What do you think should be done to help refugees around the world?

