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## **Call from The Science Academy, Turkey on the Global Refugee Crisis**

Members of the Science Academy, Turkey, as people all over the world, are in deep sorrow faced with the heart rending pictures from the global refugee crisis. These pictures are reflections of the wars, of deep social, political and humanitarian crises, of violence generated and fed by fanaticism and despotism in the Middle East and elsewhere. Our consciences call on us to search for just and ethical solutions. We believe that scientists and scholars have a responsibility to call on the public and on governments for a search for solutions based on rational analysis and to organize and present their expertise.

The number of people who have been forced to flee their homes is the highest recorded since World War II. The Science Academy, Turkey invites the world science community to take action on the Global Refugee Crisis today.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, around 59.5 million people have been displaced by political, ethno-cultural and/or religious conflict, persecution, or disaster, and 19.5 million of them are refugees. What's even more worrying is that half of the world's refugees are children in urgent need. Hundreds of people who are in search of safe life die every month trying to cross the land and sea borders around the world. The Mediterranean Sea has come to be the deadliest route for refugees and migrants, but the dangers of crossing borders for refugees are not confined to this region. Refugees originating from different parts of the world, be it from the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, or elsewhere, are in immediate need of housing, health, education and protection services.

The Science Academy, Turkey, invites you to call on and support the political leaders of your country to begin or continue efforts with utmost responsibility in relieving the agony of refugees and their children irrespective of their religious, ethnic, political, cultural, social and educational background.



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We are in need of a global agenda setting to provide better responses to needs and realities of refugees. An analysis of the current rights of refugees regarding entry, refugee and asylum status, and preparation for new international regulations is needed. Governments should mitigate growing hostility towards refugees by reinforcing socio-cultural and labor market integration policies. Governments as well as national-local NGOs and international organizations also need to develop policies to share the burden of refugees with primary receiving countries.

All stakeholders need to be mobilized in creating interactions and mechanisms that will respond to social, political and economic challenges attached to refugee crisis locally and globally. We believe that such multi-dimensional governance approach will develop an opportunity to redistribute responsibilities among actors, and will offer an additional potential to balance, if not surmount, the short-term political thinking in countries neighboring the countries of origin, in all international powers whose policies have effected or can influence the crisis in the countries of origin, and in the countries that are the initial, transit or eventual recipients of refugee flows.

What can scientists and scholars, their organizations and Academies do? If the deep and complicated problems can have lasting solutions at all, this will have to rest on reasoned analysis by social and political scientists and economists. The Science Academy is starting a platform of our members of relevant expertise for discussion and research collaboration. We invite Academies to start a specific, organized and cooperated effort for research to lead to policy recommendations on the refugee problem, to call the community of scientists and scholars to this effort, and to cooperate with research agencies and to present governments and the public with council based on research.

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