

# MAZLUMDER

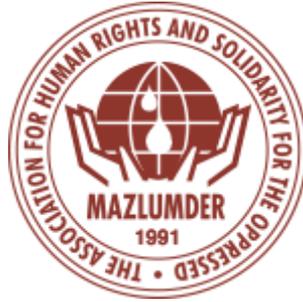
## The Report on Syrian Women Refugees

May 2014



The Association for Human Rights and Solidarity for the Oppressed

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**MAZLUMDER**

**THE REPORT ON SYRIAN WOMAN REFUGEES  
LIVING OUT OF THE CAMPS**

**MAZLUMDER** WOMEN STUDIES GROUP

MAY 2014

## ACKNOWLEDMENT

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**MAZLUMDER WOMEN STUDIES GROUP**

*Human is the shelter of human...*

## PREFACE

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Analyzing the ‘Syrian Uprising,’ an armed conflict-taking place in Syria; the unrest began in the early Spring 2011 within in the context of Arab Spring protests, following nationwide protests against President Bashar-al Assad’s government. The Syrian conflict has produced the most compelling humanitarian challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Syrian Civil War, have left more than three and half million refugees who have fled to neighboring countries, with Turkey hosting the largest number of Syrian refugees, with approximately more than 4 million people eluding from the chaotic atmosphere. The relentless on-going battle for the past three years have compelled the Syrians in leaving their lands with statistics highlighting that nearly 2.5 million people have found asylum in neighboring countries. Turkey is the leading asylum head for the Syrian refugees of these countries of asylum with its 877 km border running along with Syria. With the fact that there is a seemingly wide border situated between theses two countries, the lines of descent along with trade relations that had continued from the early past to present, serves as a plus in accommodating and magnetizing Syrians in seeking hospitality within Turkey, without disregarding other hospitable policies such as the “open-door policy.”

Within a short period; there has been accelerated increase in the population growth of Syrian refugees especially in the cities and the metropolitan municipalities close to the border.

After the usage of chemical weapons in Syria during the armed conflicts on August 21st2013 in East Guta region (close to Damask), the possibility of military intervention towards Syria became a current issue causing an increase in the mobility of refugees from Syria to neighboring countries. As a result, the humanitarian crisis in Syria affected Turkey deeply in making and revising its process differently than from its former expectations.

It can be said that Turkey followed a hospitable policy towards the refugees in the beginning of the armed conflicts; however with the unexpected experience of an increase in the refugee population resulted in the shortcomings of shelter, health, education needs, and security. As known, most of the refugees are women and children who can be called as, the “fragile group”. Nowadays the living conditions are getting harder for the refugees as some of them have to live in open areas even during winter conditions, whereas workforce exploitation and sexual abusing matters reflected also in the press. These problems are related with the refugee/asylum seeker policy of Turkey and the inefficiency of infrastructure along with the increase in the number of refugees. It can be said that the process of producing policies appropriate for the definition of “right of asylum” as in the international literature have made a little process in Turkey. For this reason, support mechanisms should be developed with taking fast and temporary precautions against mass migration and considering the hospitable and tolerance level of the society.

In this report we will highlight that the living conditions of the Syrian refugee women who live out of the camps are prone to higher levels of risk from the aspect of security; and the other problems they face with because of being a woman was focused. We hope that this study would create awareness in regards with this issue, shedding light on CSO’s official organizations, which work in this field, contributing to refugees on reaching compatible life conditions while maintaining human dignity.

MAZLUMDER President  
Ahmet Faruk Ünsal

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

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**DEMP** – Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency

**BM** – United Nations

**UN-HCR** – United Nations High Commission on Refugees

**CEDAW** - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

**DEVAW** - Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women

**EMHRN** - Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network

**CESCR** – Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**HCA** - Helsinki Citizens Assembly

**ISIL** – Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

**SNHRC** - Syrian Network for Human Rights

**SCO** – Non-governmental Organizations

**SYP** - Syrian Pound

**TGNA**- Turkish Grand National Assembly

**TR** – Turkish Republic

## INTRODUCTION and OBJECTIVE

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Along with the socio-political processes initiated in 2011, and the becoming of the Syrian civil War; more than 2.5 million Syrians democratic demands including their fundamental right to live were fiercely suppressed and jeopardized as they migrated from various countries claiming their right of asylum. According to UN-HCR and Turkey data; the number of refugees was estimated to be 200,000 within the 22 refugee camps, with more than 600,000 residing out of the camps. The first Syrian refugees entered on April, 29<sup>th</sup> 2011, with the number of refugees up scaling to 800,000 during this time period. It was anticipated that the population of refugees would be over a million far beyond the official data as nearly 80% of these refugees are classified as being women and children.

Different from men, women escaping from the tyranny they faced with in their country need special security, therefore they are characterized as “fragile group” like the refugee children<sup>1</sup>. All the countries are obliged to provide fundamental human conditions for the people who refuge their countries as guaranteed with international treaties. In compliance with this obligation; security, care, nutrition and health needs of refugee women and children should be primarily met.

Although there have been significant actions and self-sacrificing assistance towards Syrian refugees since 2011; recent claims indicated that refugees, living outside of the camps lack minimum proper humanitarian living conditions, as some continue to reside in open areas, in the absence of basic human needs such as shelter, health, education and nutrition. As the result of gender role in society; women are in a disadvantageous position in addition to the social, physical and psychological problems they encounter because of their ‘refugee identity’ in the countries they have taken refuge, their traumas because of ‘gender identity’ is a phenomena that should be separately taken into account.

The concept of gender mentioned here does not refer to the ‘biologic sex’ difference between man and woman; however it implies a connotation of a more extensive socio-psychological phenomena conceptualized as ‘gender’. The disciplinary fields of social sciences assess the concept of gender based on sociological differences examining differences from society to society, which as a result can be changed with time. In short; ‘gender’ is a concept comprised of inner defining along with social role and representations of these roles/ differences. This concept sometimes can be used interchangeably as having the same denotation with the meaning of ‘violence towards women’ since women are exposed to discrimination and violence due to their absolute gender<sup>2</sup>. While violence is internalized with gender roles from time to time, using violence tends to over reproduce these roles again and again.

With reference to this study, our aim is to research the unfavorable life conditions of Syrian women refugees in Turkey, in addition to the problematic issues they encounter because of their gender identity, while drawing specific attention towards related organizations and institutions to take some necessary precautions and preventives on this issue.

## METHOD

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This report is compiled based on on the interviews conducted in İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Gaziantep, Diyarbakır, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, Malatya, Batman, Hatay, Osmaniye, Van and Bursa which are the cities allowing Syrian immigrants under the coordinatorship of **MAZLUMDER** Woman Operation Group. As a part of this research, 72 Syrian woman refugees as a technique were interviewed in depth including company executives and representatives of non-governmental organizations who were interested in this issue.

During the interviews, Syrian refugee women were administered questions regarding their basic life conditions such as shelter, security, health, education and nutrition, along with any possible issue for them as ‘being a woman’ including and their future expectations along with general information about demographic and socio- economic structure.

The findings gathered within the scope of our reporting work similarly can be interpreted through the news reflected by the media on Syrian woman refugees whom are residing out of the camps in Turkey. The reports of national and international SCO’s were specifically prepared for Syrian woman refugees and in general for Syrian refugees, where the data gathered from UN-HCR, was explained by related official organizations and institutions. Written parliamentary questions were administered to the TGNA on this issue as related national and international legislations were examined.

The suggestions presented in this report are constituted, taking into account the negotiations with academicians who have studied on woman rights, refugees and social services. Representatives and experts from non-governmental organizations and related institutions experts assisted along in gathering the findings from the conducted interviews.

Selecting the interviewers; ethnic, socioeconomic and cultural diversity was paid attention to in order to reflect a dispersion of Syrian refuge’ demographic and socioeconomic structure as much as possible. However; for sure, it cannot be claimed that the interview group reflects the conditions of all woman refugees at the same rate.

Within the scope of this research, when particular cases about sex abusing were delineated of, the accuracy of these rumors was analyzed by trying to reach the cases. Because of the delicacy of the matter; gathering information was seemingly difficult as the victims were not reached or sometimes refused talking. Aforementioned cases were given part with the idea that these speculations should not be ignored.

The interviewers’ were not provided with any part in protecting the right of privacy and possible security risks; however, names were used in risk-free cases when necessary, otherwise kept anonymous.

## A GENERAL OVERVIEW TO SYRIA CRISIS

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In the Syrian Arab Republic, the Ba'ath Party took power in Syria after the military coup in 1963. Hafiz Esed who was the defense minister of that term lead the Party in 1966, and in 1970 became Prime Minister of Syria after declaring himself President by becoming the absolute ruler of the country in 1971. Hafiz Esed's unrivalled reign lasted until 2000 when he died. At the beginning of Beşar Esed ruler ship who was titled after his father's death, the birth of democratization, with willful demands that could be discussed and a relatively free atmosphere, was being fostered in the country. This democratic movement was interrupted in August 2001 with the political process started after the arrest of protestors who demanded the expansion of freedoms and having a rather fair system in the elections.

The demographic structure of Syria consists mainly of Sunni Arabs; in addition to Alawi Arabs, Sunni Kurds and Christians. In Syria where ethnic diversity is observable, the, the Esed Family remained in power for 40 years, as the members of the Alawi ethnic groups currently hold the power. In addition, the government includes other ethnic and religious groups in a determined dimension. During the authoritative process of Esed Family which was becoming a one- party regime, they exhibited a discriminative political envy towards other ethnic groups refraining from administering others groups rights in participating on a political stage such as the Ikhawan Muslims. An exception was made if they came from the Baath Party, which created a havoc and a tense atmosphere, where sects identities/groups began to come into prominence throughout the nation. As for the Sunni population, they were seriously unsatisfied with the domination of a minority ethnic group, while Syrian Kurds, who were exposed to ethnic discrimination and whose cultural rights were generally ignored and mother language was prohibited, acted discordantly against the regime. It can be said that this sectarian policy's (followed by the regime) effect hindered possible comprising deep fault lines between Alawi and Sunni Muslims in the recent conflicts that occurred within the country. "Power war" led by connected alliances from neighboring countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iran also had a significant effect on this situation. Because Russia wanted to save its position, U.S and Israel aimed to end the logistic supports of Palestinian and Lebanese resistance groups that threatened the security of Israel, their indirect intervention deepened the crisis badly.

During the reign of Baath regime, military, police and the correspondence power were given extraordinary authority as this totalitarian regime dominated within the country. Ruling with one totalitarian party regime, the government in Syria did not take a step to reach the standards proposed by human rights documents that were signed during their rules and as a result they were criticized harshly by international community and human rights organizations. The recent political history of Syria witnessed humanitarian tragedies, which responsible people for the act were unpunished, primarily due to the fact that the regime wanted to oppress the dissenters with massacres and tortures. The most serious brutal and indiscriminate of these massacres was Hama Slaughter in 1982.

The Arab Spring a revolutionary wave of demonstrations and protests (both non-violent and violent), riots, and civil wars in the Arab world that began on 18 December 2010 in Tunisia with the Tunisian Revolution, and spread throughout the countries of the Arab League and its surroundings. The effects of Arab Spring swiftly spread and reached Syria in 2011 after Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen and Bahrain. Protest demonstrations organized in Daraa in March 2011 against oppressions expanded throughout the country after many of the activist adults were tortured. These demonstrations were trying to to be suppressed through violent tactics. The regime had characterized this public opposition and retracted through means of security in general and specifically called on for a “fight against terrorism” depicting that the protestors were using weapons during the protests as evidence. The regime started gross human rights violations such as murder and torture under surveillance, human trafficking and rape to disarrange and intimidate the opposition. After that this led the UN and human rights organizations on focusing on the violation of rights in Syria and declared that the regime had committed a foul crime against humanity. During the ongoing process, the opposition constructed military units armed with the encouragement and support of intervening countries as they and started to take control and begin on seizing areas. Rebellions started in Syria transformed into a civil war, with the witness of strict torturing and massacres and chemical weapons employed with all human rights violations peculiar to war were committed.

According to UN data, more than 120,000 were slaughtered since March 2011, as hundreds of thousands people were tortured and women were raped over the past three years time frame. Millions of people relocated within the country or took refuge in neighboring countries to save their lives.

After using chemical weapons in August 2013, a diverging split in opinion resulted between actors in the region, as an increase of diplomatic struggles started to focus on political solution in Syria. During negotiations, the regime closed out deal, calling for the annihilation of the existing chemical weapons. Geneva-2 negotiations started with the aim of reconciling the parties and preventing the tragedy of humans to get worse, which failed to meet the expectation on peacekeeping.

Migration started after the civil war was still underway, because of hard living conditions and security crisis in Syria especially in the areas where opponents lived. It is anticipated that this conflict would last for more years; however the traumatic outcomes of the war are still being deeply felt both in Syria and in the neighboring countries where Syrians migrated.

## THE CONDITIONS OF THE SYRIAN REFUGEES LIVING IN TURKEY

Turkey opened its borders to Syrian refugees who lived are under threat in April 2011. At first, refugees were given the stature of a ‘guest’, which does not imply an significance in international law, and later were given the stature of ‘temporary protection’ with a circular issued in April 2012. Turkey expanded this temporary protection it provided in October 2012. In this process, Turkey expected that crisis in Syria would overcome quickly and the refugees would turn back to their original countries. While the crisis in Syria was expected to last for a short period, it gradually inflated getting more complex; witnessing mass massacres and a atrocious more dramatic scene, foreseeing the possibility of Syrian refugees returning back to their native countries. In this political process, existing data supports the anticipation that the crises seen in Syria would prolong for more years.

According to the latest DEMP data, approximately 220,000\* of Syrian refugees reside in 22 temporary sheltering areas in Turkey. Of these refugees a 170,000 are women, with more than 50,000 are over 18<sup>3</sup>. Most of these women are widows loosing their husbands in the war. According to this aforementioned data, 667,000 of refugees live out of the camps<sup>4</sup>.

### THE NUMBER OF WOMAN REFUGEES LIVING IN THE CAMPS ACCORDING TO THEIR AGE RANGE

0-4AGE	5-11AGE	12-17 AGE	18-54 AGE	60+ AGE	TOTAL
18.958	21.765	15.710	46.663	4.072	107.168
TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES LIVING IN THE CAMPS					217.324

*Resource: DEMP*

It is estimated that the increase in the number of refugees which is more than a million both in and out of the camps would also continue to elevate for a while. The Syrian refugee influx especially affected the demographic structure of the cities near the borders and population of some cities nearly doubling during this process. In grand cities like İstanbul, İzmir and Ankara, the number of refugees is comprised fairly of a large proportionate approximately more than hundreds of thousands.

During the interviews, it is clearly seen that most of the refugees want to turn back to their country; however the possibility for Syrian refugees of turning back is thought to be less likely as they plan on adopting the conditions of Turkey and settle down here. This concern has a great detrimental impact for Turkey, as the refugees divert and disapprove of living within the camps. It is also estimated that there would be serious consequential problems about meeting the needs of refugees especially living out of the camps, as the refugees would highly affect the local socio-cultural and economic structure of the cities they settled down in for the ongoing process.

\* In the recent explanation, it is indicated that this number is higher than 220,000.

Even if Turkey has allocated wide resources for the refugee camps, it is not possible for them in meeting the refugees' needs by constructing more camps. It is inevitable to generate permanent solutions about this issue with the estimation that Syria crisis would last for some time and the chance of refugees to turn back to their country seems slighter. Social acceptance and adoption is expected to remain on the agenda as an important issue through an active cooperation with international community in this period. Even if recently enacted Foreigners and International Protection Law present a general legal framework for the problems of the refugees, the outcomes of this law on the point of generating permanent solutions about social acceptance and adoption of the refugees especially those living out of camps yet will remain unclear and abstruse.

As high standard facilities were provided in the camps customized specially for the refugees, people were also sensitive about these refugees during the process. Public reliefs and financial supports of the society had an imperative role on improving the life conditions of the refugees. The refugees choose not to reside within the camps due so primarily because of the unavailability space capacities in the camps. Most of the Syrian refugees hold negative impressions about camps along with the preference of having a permanent settlement which in retrospective suspend their livings through unsystematic humanitarian reliefs and savings they made before, working under difficult conditions and low wages if they can find a job

The fact that refugees will stay longer causes some problems on the point of the sustainability of the expenditures and humanitarian reliefs. The existence of the refugees who are struggling to suspend their livings out of the camps will cause some problems such as regression between local people and refugees and arising of some negative attitudes and behaviors against the foreigners if the process gets longer. First signals of this situation can be seen through the reflection of the judicial cases to the media. Gradual increase on existing of the refugees caused some security problems along with various socio-cultural problems. There are some judicial cases in which refugees intervened or the security of refugees is under threat.

During the process of compiling the reporting work with local people, it can be inferred from interviews that feelings of relief or protective apprehension can be altered in a negative way if this process lasts longer. There is a negative extent of social reaction because of the excessive number of refugees which can be seen more in the cities close to the border: It is vital to indicate that the Turkish community have neither positive nor negative opinions about refugees as they lack an in-depth experience fixed approach towards the refugees. There are both positive perspectives arising from hospitality, sympathy and multi-cultural thoughts, and with negative perspectives arising from racist thoughts along with 'limitations of financial conditions' against the refugees. This social feature may have both some advantages and disadvantages against the refugee policies<sup>5</sup>. It is clear that something should be done to prevent negative attitudes and reactions of the Turkish society against the refugees and increase their positive feelings towards them. For this reason, non-governmental organizations employed in this field should be well organized and work in collaboration.

The problems of the refugees living out of the camps are different because of the facilities provided according to socio-economic conditions. Most of the refugees are incapable of speaking the official language and are unaware of getting about when encountered in a problem. Language barriers make social adaptation/ assimilation and access to public services difficult.

Apart from this, other problematic concerns are the following: inadequacy of shelter, health and nutrition conditions, children are deprived of education and psycho-social support services, social adoption problems arising from cultural differences and social exclusion, abusing of workforce, sexual abusing of women through prostitutions and unofficial marriages becoming a trade sector and harassment against women. There are a lack of social support mechanisms in generating proposals or models in finding viable solutions to these kind of problems for the Syrian refugees living out of the camps.

*Gender Based Violence as a War Crime*

Women are experiencing socio-psychological pressure because of discrimination based on terms of gender and also face prejudice. On some levels they are classified on the merits of individual racial intolerance on gender, where under normal conditions they are prone to face more violence in a war atmosphere. According to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), discrimination based on gender is defined as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field." The basic reasons for violence based on gender are the attitudes and practices based on gender discrimination in the societies which consider women as having an inferior level in relations with men<sup>6</sup>.

Irremediable damages occurred because of uncontrolled violence perpetration in a war atmosphere where all the law system collapsed, along with a complete power struggle that had appeared which had made it necessary to define a legal regulation peculiar to war conditions in international level in parallel with uprising of consciousness of human rights. In this legal regulation, the relationships between the countries, which wage war against each other and with the countries, which do not take participatory in the war, are regulated where the rights and responsibilities of an individuals are defined. The basic reason of defining laws of war is to minimize the violence caused by war as much as possible<sup>7</sup>.

Accordingly, first international conventions which war crimes are defined and particular restrictions, which were imposed, was the Lahey Conventions signed in 1899 and 1907. Four conventions on law of war were signed in Geneva in 1949. With this convention signed in 1949 standards for protecting civilians during the war were determined. In the first conventions, while despoliation was accepted to be a war crime, violence against gender was not included in this definition. Violence based on gender was included with ambiguous expressions in the conventions with the development process of law of war; however it took hundred years to be defined as a war crime. "Even after sexual violence practices against women were accepted as a war crime, investigation and prosecution of these crimes was ignored by the superiors in the battle fields or it was not seen as a prior case<sup>8</sup>." Sexual violence against women as a general category included rape which was seen as a kind of violence and inevitable outcome of the war atmosphere since the ancient times. Because women are thought to be a part of property of men, sexual violence practices against women as a way of measuring achievement of masculine power, a concrete equivalent of the services given during the war and reward of the war has not been found strange, and this case has become an implied norm as an unavoidable natural drive under the war conditions.

The underlying reasons why it took a long time defining violence based on gender as a war weapon and as a war of crime was because it was not independent from historical and cultural background, which leads to other forms of violence practices, based on gender. Rape during the war, which was observable from ancient historical era, is still customary in modern day time yet remaining invisible and unnoticeable. In the depiction of the soldiers, women were considered as a ‘sex object’, as the armies often would utilize this derogatory method as a habitual weapon. This weapon was utilized both with the aim of demoralizing the enemies and motivating their own soldiers by manifesting their victory symbolically<sup>10</sup>.”

Before the law of war which was developed during the construction process of modern nation states and international relationships, Islamic Laws had already defined violence against women as a war crime hundreds of years ago. Violence based on gender could not be prevented even in wars that took place in Islamic History although Islamic Laws prohibited strictly to damage the civilians and the environment out of the battles between military forces in the wars.

“According to the UN data, each year approximately two million women and girl trafficking occurs throughout the world. Mass rape cases during the wars in Bosnia, Kampuchea, Liberia, Peru, Somali and Uganda are witnessed. For instance; it is estimated that at least 200,000 thousand women were raped during the war in Bosnia and 500 thousand women were raped in 1994 Ruanda genocide. In Sierra Leone, 94% of displaced families who were surveyed pointed out that they were objected to sexual violence including rape, torture and sexual slavery<sup>11</sup>.”

In a report of UN-HCR, violence practices based on gender is explained in five categories in terms of period they occurred<sup>12</sup>:

**At the time of war, before escaping:**

- Harassed by the people in the government
- Sexual violence against women
- Sexual abusing by the soldiers
- Mass rape and to make pregnant
- Kidnapped by the armed members of the parties in the war

**While escaping:**

- Sexual assault by bandits and border keepers
- Caught by human or slavery tradesmen

**In the country of asylum:**

- Sexual assault by people who have authority
- Sexual harassment to girls separated from their families while they are with foster family
- Violence within the family

- Obligated to sexual intercourse/ prostitution to suspend their livings
- Sexual harassment while they are waiting for a legal statue or access to help or resources in the country of asylum.

**While turning back:**

- Restarting harmful conventional practices against women
- Sexual harassment to women and girls separated from their families
- Harassed by the people in the government
- Sexual assault by bandits and border keepers, oblige to turn back

**In the process of reintegration:**

- Sexual abuse as a kind of punishment toward people who turn back
- Sexual violence to regulate legal statue
- Leaving the women out of the decision making processes
- Preventing women to access the resources.

***Syrian Civil War and Syrian Women***

Research and reports compiled indicated that women and children suffered from the Syrian civil war more where gender based violence was used as a war weapon. In a report prepared by thw Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) the findings indicated that women were raped in 7 cities including Damascus were were witnessed during the protest against the government, at the security points and in the places where people were taken into custody. The justification for these rapes was to suppress the opposition groups, and to menace and humiliate them during the custody and military operations. This report also includes a testimony of a victim at the age of 19 named Aida who was raped twice by different people when she was taken into custody for three months between October 2012 and January 2013. The report claims that rape is used as a form of psychological war technique by the regime forces, and performed with the deliberate intention of intimidating and suppressing the anti-regime supporters psychologically. In addition, the regime soldiers raped a 9-year old girl in Bab-1 Amr district of Hama city in March 2012. It is really hard to document the rape and sexual violence cases; because victims have to live with the individual and social ramifications of abusing's they have countered with. Not all but most sexual violence victims are obliged to leave the places they live, and even if they left their countries they still carry on the physical and psychological effects of its traumatic experience. The organization also documented that women are mostly used as a "human shield" and indicated that this situation is both the same with regime forces and opposition parties. The report claims that women are kidnapped with the aim of exchanging captives or suppressing their family to surrender which also includes the London centered Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR)'s claiming that 125 women and 2 children were kidnapped for this reason between December 2011 and May 2012.

In an explanation made by SNHR in November 2013, it is claimed that 10.853 women lost their lives and 7500 women were “obliged to sexual violence” during the operations and attacks carried out by security forces in different cities between March 2011 and November 2013. In addition it was claimed in the report that there were 3,614 female children deaths, whereas 461 women were shot by sharpshooters and 29 women were killed because of the torture of regime forces. It is also expressed that nearly 400 female children in Kerm el Zeytun, Bab Amro ve İdlib'in Ciesr el Şuğur towns of Hama city were obliged to sexual violence during the events and 850 women were raped in the attacks and operations of regime forces. It was also claimed that 2.1 million women had to migrate within the country and 1.1 million women escaped to foreign countries because of the events occurred in Syria and women and children were used as a human shield in lots of cities against armed opposition groups by the regime forces. In the explanation made by SNHR it is indicated that woman deaths are mostly occurred in the suburbs of capital Damascus, Aleppo, Hama Idlib and Daraa cities<sup>14</sup>.

Yet we face a problematic limitation in investigating all of these serious claims in order to punish the responsible perpetrators. “Rape victims in Syria as a result of sexual assaults remain undocumented mostly because of the strict social norms which make victims conceptualize that rape could stain their families, facing humiliation before society, and not being treated same for these <sup>15</sup>.” “In addition, there are not any UN human rights reporters or independent observers in the country which prevents confirming the rape claims and makes detention of an even number of rapes difficult to document. Even there is no sign of studies conducted by the executives to investigate, in order for the preventive measures to be conducted through a fair trial and sentence the responsible people of sexual assaults should be punished.<sup>16</sup>”

While women who fled from the war atmosphere to save their lives have social and psychological impressions of traumas, while they also have to face new traumas and the distress of becoming a “refugee”. It is necessary to take some specific precautions to protect woman refugees who are in a disadvantageous position from all aspects. Even if it is late, while violence based on gender towards women was taken into scope of war crimes gaining a separate statue, rights of refugee woman definitions are included in international human rights legislation.

In the interviews conducted within the scope of this research, the impressions of the traumas Syrian refugee woman endured can be clearly seen. The explanations of refugee women about gender based violence they faced or witnessed during the civil war in Syria and while they were crossing the border corroborate the UN, EMHRN and SNHR data:

26 year old Z, who escaped from the war atmosphere in Damascus and found asylum in Turkey now lives in Osmaniye, and describes what she went through as the follow:

*“We were living in the city however we could not go out. The soldiers of Esed were waiting in the street and they were checking our identities. They executed my uncle’s*

*son by firing squad. And my uncle was killed with a bomb part hit on his head... We were not safe there so we moved to a village. We lived in this village around five months. When Esed's soldiers started to approach our village, we left there, too and settled down a different village. I gave birth to my child there. The war was lasting. We could not go back to our homes. Therefore we came near the border.*

*Esed has his own men inside the opposition groups. They were gathering information about opponents and denouncing them. Once they closed the street surroundings and bombed. My uncle was killed in this process. They killed 200 people within five days. The soldiers of Esed raked through a bus. And inside the bus there were women and children. They killed all of them. I was really scared and about to miscarry... A photo of Esed was put before us and then we were asked to grovel to him. And they were killing the people who reject to do this. Some of Esed's soldier could resist these occasions and they opposed to this torture. They were also killed. They were taking clothes of women off and left them naked in the streets. They were waiting in the streets and collecting the women who went out. Young, old, single or married it made no sense and they were all collected. They were separating young girls and taking them. They were locking the women into the mosques and raped them. Then they were killing the women they raped. One group from the opposition busted into a mosque and found nearly 30 women naked. They gave clothes them and took out of the mosque.*

*This is the reason why we fled. After my father and mother witnessed such cruelties they said 'we cannot live here anymore'. There were two young ladies in our house. So we directly came here.'*

45 year old S, who also escaped from war atmosphere in Damascus and found asylum in Turkey and now lives in Osmaniye tells what she went through as follow:

*"At first, there were only protests in the streets and we were safe. Then, everything has changed. There were guns and bombs in the streets. There were a lot of people killed in the streets. Most of the people fled to other surrounding villages. There were plans crossing over our villages. We had really black days. We were five families living in a room. All relatives were living together. Leave alone a room to sleep; we did not have any room even to sit.*

*My uncle's daughter was killed during this period. Her children escaped from home to join the opposition group after their mother had been killed. They were full of revenge. In addition Esed's soldiers were butchering people like they were sheep. They believed that if they killed us, they would go to the heaven... The opposition groups were easily organizing and recruiting the young whose mother, father or relatives were killed. They were firing their revenge feelings up. Even there was nothing to do for the opponents. Because, there were lots of weapons and bombs in Esed's army. They were not doing anything against Esed's soldiers. Some of them broke into houses and stole*

*something claiming that they were from opponent groups. In fact they were not opponents.*

*Esed's soldiers were tearing the women's clothes apart and leaving them in the streets. I heard that they collected women into the mosques and raped. They made women job so that women would abort their babies. There were lots of rape cases in the villages; however they could not do the same things in the cities freely. The people in the villages were poor and they did not have anywhere to go. So they were easy pickings for the regime forces. We fled however most of them could not."*

There were also interviewers who explained that gender based violence was not only practiced by regime forces but also by the opponent groups:

30 year-old Syrian woman refugee M. lives with her family in Urfa. She told that they were financially in a good position; her father was busy with textile trading and lived their lives as a wealthy family. M. told that she was a student in Literature department at a university and one of her sister was attending English Language teacher department and the other sister was a student in Law department. But they fled from their country to Turkey leaving their house, schools, business behind in order to save their lives. And she added that Tel Abyad district where they lived was under the control of ISIL forces and there were intense conflicts between them and regime forces during that time. M. told that there were lots of groups in their district. She explained that they heard that there were five or six thousands professional soldiers in Islamic groups who took part in opponent side. In addition, M. mentioned that these groups exercised influence over their street; they intervened in even the color of women's clothes, the women were obliged to wear long, black outer covers, black scarf and put black veils on their faces. And also she added that it was forbidden for a woman to go out alone, women without going out without a man with them were arrested and women who smoke were punished. M. asserted that these prohibitions still exist, when she went to Syria to enter her examinations she had to wait for one of her male relatives and she changed her clothes because she was afraid. She also stated that some of the members of opposition groups forced women and their families to marry them telling that "they were jehading and women had to marry them to jihad". M. told an example she heard as follow:

*"Commander of one of the opposition groups liked a young woman. He told that they would get married. However, the commander was highly older than this woman. So, the young woman did not want to get married. They suppressed her family and threatened them. At the end, the woman committed suicide because she could not resist the pressure she and her family faced."*

During the interviews, some other testimonials of women who told similar reporting's pointed out that in addition to what they experienced in their country, they also faced gender based violence while they were crossing the border. They stated that at the borders human trafficking gangs who sold women and female children to some Arab countries was an observable practice, with Qatar as one of the most referenced country among them. It was

assumed by the families that they would end up having good living conditions in the hands of the traders. It is also claimed that while crowded families were crossing the borders, they were only allowed to enter after bargaining for their daughters and there were a lot of families who had to unfortunately accept this.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR WOMAN REFUGEES

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### *Refugees/Asylum Seekers in International Legislation*

United Nations General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations High Commission in 1948. “United Nations Geneva Convention and Protocol Relating to the Legal Status of Refugees” which includes minimum standards of principals, definitions, basic rights that refugees have and provisions that are to be applied to the refugees in this field which was declared in 1951. Today the principal of non-refoulement and definition of “refugee” which is common for all the countries was presented in this convention. While there were some “historical and geographical limitations” in terms of refugees in this convention until 1967, these limitations were removed by “New York Convention and Protocol Relating to the Legal Status of Refugees” in 1967.

Even though all democratic countries accepted the universality principle of human rights, human rights documents and states’ constitutions brought some regulations limiting some basic rights of foreigners<sup>17</sup>. Declared in 1951 “Convention and Protocol relating to the Legal Status of Refugees” was a kind of “combined rights statue” for the refugees. In the convention, it was agreed that the Contracting States shall accommodate the refugees the lawfully permission of staying within their territory by providing the most favorable treatment according to the nationals of a foreign country, entitled to having property (Article 13), wage-earning employment (Article 17), and self-employment (Article 18); The Contracting States shall accord to refugees the same treatment as is accorded to nationals with respect to public education (Article 22), access to courts (Article 16) and public reliefs (Article 23).

International documents which grant the rights of refugees under protection are not limited to 1951 “United Nations Geneva Convention , the Protocol Relating to the Legal Status of Refugees”, 1967 “New York Convention , Protocol Relating to the Legal Status of Refugees”. “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”, “European Convention on Human Rights”, “UN Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (UN-CESCR)”, “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), “Convention on the Rights of Children” and finally the “Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities” are also international documents which take the rights of refugees under protection and into consideration. Even though refugees and asylum seekers did not directly take part in the convention contents, the conventions had become applicable for the refugees in compliance with non-discrimination.

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\*The convention included people who were defined as “people who became asylum seeker” because of the incidents faced before 1 January 1951.

## *Refugees/Asylum Seekers in National Legislation*

Turkey confirmed the “Geneva Convention” in 1961 and the “New York Protocol” in 1967; however, although Turkey abolished “historical limitation”, “geographic limitation” was in practice. “Foreigners and International Protection Law” published in the official newspaper on 11 April 2013, which was put into practice on 11 April 2014. The law waited for a long time in the parliament that had some important reforms on migration and asylum issues despite it having some even deficiencies. Before this law went in effect, “Individual Foreigners who Find Asylum in Turkey or Ask Residence Permit from Turkey to Find Asylum in Other Country “issued a 1994 based “1951 Geneva Convention” and “1967 New York Protocol”, “Legislation on Principals and Procedures Applied in Foreigners Who Came Near Our Borders in order to Find Asylum and Population Movements that can be Occurred;” with the “2006 Instructions of Practice” taken as a basis into account. Because of “geographic limitations” that took part in 1994 Legislation and 2006 Circular, the concepts of “refugee” and “asylum seeker” were defined differently from the international laws. In accordance with this separation, Turkey defined people who came from European countries as demanding international security as “refugee” and people who migrated from countries out of Europe demanding international security as “asylum seeker”. Turkey provides sojourn in cooperation with UN-HCR for the people who are “asylum seeker” until they are sent to a different country.

Although not adequate, “Foreigners and International Protection Law” make international protection statuses more clear, and define “refugee”, “asylum seeker” and “subsidiary protection” statuses along with abolishing the difference between refugee and asylum seeker.

The “1994 Legislation” became out of date during the mass migration which occurred as a result of the Syrian crisis. This case was also mentioned on the report prepared by TGNA Human Rights Investigation Commission<sup>18</sup>. Instead of making common general, objective and impersonal regulations, the understandings of solving the problems through specific and subjective regulations took place as the problems were tried to be solved through circulars. Same procedure was followed in Syrian refugees and 62 numbered “Directive Relating to the Acceptance and Sheltering of the Stateless People who lived in Syrian Arab Republic and Come to Turkey with the aim of Seeking Mass Asylum” which giving “temporary protected status” and including regulations on administration of the camps was issued by the Ministry of Internal on 30.03.2012. However this directive was not shared with public. “Temporary protected status” is defined as “exceptional procedure which is provided with the aim of providing emergent and temporary protection especially for the benefit of people mentioned or people who need protection or the other people who need protection if mass influx occurs because of the third people who cannot turn back to their country or in a position that this case may immediately be seen<sup>19</sup>” on the report prepared by TGNA Human Rights Investigation Commission. Syrian citizens who were taken under protection with this statute was not given the “refugee” or “asylum seeker” status as different from the domestic law and accepted as a kind of “guests” whose each kind of requirements are met by State<sup>20</sup>. In terms of aforementioned statute, mentioned people do not have the right to asylum and apply to a third

country to find asylum. In addition, regulations are also made relating to the Syrian refugees on the issues such as sheltering, working, education and health.

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\*On the following of the report it will be referred as 1994 Legislation

### ***The Protection of Refugee/Asylum Seeker Women***

Women encounter the same problems with all the refugees. Like the other refugees, woman refugees defined as “fragile group” need security against armed conflicts and any type of violence; to be protected against the threat of extending the duration of custody without any reason and suppression to turn back their countries; a stature providing them with satisfying social, economic and legal rights; and a need for their fundamental requirements such as nutrition, sheltering, self-care and health to be fulfilled. In addition, a refugee women and female children need specific protection and support. They need to be protected against abusing, sexual and physical violence, exploitation, discrimination against the distribution of goods and services.

The rights given to refugee women is not limited to the regulations in “1951 Geneva Convention” and “1967 New York Protocol”. “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”, “Geneva Conventions” and two additional protocols of this convention, “UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights”, “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)”, “Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW)”, “The Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict”, “The Convention on the Nationality of Married Women” and “Convention on the Rights of Children” are among international documents which rights of women refugees take part. Even though these documents were not signed by all states, it provides a framework for international human rights standards in terms of protection and support for refugee women.

Domestic Laws and policies in the country of asylum also include protection of refugee women. Most of the assaults such as “rape”, “exploitation”, “physical violence”, “human trafficking” and “forced to prostitute” shall be punished within the framework of domestic laws.

There are some regulations which prohibit the violence against women and require the protection of women against violence both in international documents and in domestic laws. In the preface of “Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW)” which was accepted in 1993, it is affirmed that *violence against women constitutes a violation of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women and impairs or nullifies their enjoyment of those rights and freedoms, and concerned about the long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in the case of violence against women*, and pointed out that refugee women are especially vulnerable to violence.

The issue of “women trafficking” and “exploitation of women through prostitution” is also discussed in international human rights documents. Along with CEDAW and DEVAW which deal especially with rights of women; conventions such as “The United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others” which deals with “refugee trafficking”, “exploitation” and “prostitution”, “United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime” and one of its related protocols “the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children” determine the international standards on this issue. These documents clearly describe “sexual harassment” and the actions stemming from this issue including “violence against women”, “slavery”, “debt bondage”, “trading on marriage” and “children trafficking” as prostitution, smuggling and exploitation.

“United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime” and one of its related protocols “the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children” are the most significant and effective international conventions on the issue of human trafficking. These documents have been affirmed by state quickly and highly applied. Turkey is among the countries which signed this protocol as quick as possible and applied the conventions in domestic law. In the third article of this protocol, human trafficking is defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs” and its scope was determined. The term exploitation is also included “exploitation of the prostitution” and “sexual exploitation” in this article. To be able to apply the requirements of this convention and related protocol, “human trafficking” crime is regulated in the 80. article of Turkish Criminal Law. However, while the committing of “human trafficking” crime with the aim of prostitution is regulated in this article, the other forms of “sexual exploitation” is left out of this article.

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\*Also, 48., 49. and 55. articles of Foreigners and International Protection Law include regulations for the victims of human trafficking.

## TO BE A WOMAN REFUGEE and SYRIAN WOMAN REFUGEES LIVING OUT OF THE CAMPS

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### *To Be a Woman Refugee*

Like the other refugees, women also leave their country because of suppression, violence and fear. In addition, as different from men, women also leave their country and find asylum in different countries in order to avoid violence and pressure such as gender based discrimination, pressure and persecution relating to socio-cultural doctrines, traditional practices harming their physical and emotional health, sexual exploitation, gender based violence and domestic violence they faced basically because of their gender<sup>21</sup>.

The effects of gender based discrimination can be seen also in the country of asylum. “Initiating from the definition of refugee in the framework of refugee migration, that most of the observable agencies are identified with men is the concrete example of patriarchy. After the immigration, that mostly women have economic, systematic, informational, cultural and linguistic problems in accessing supports and services should be seen as the effects of patriarchy. Experiencing the immigration as a woman based on gender, ethnicity and cultural differences make women more sensitive with the effect of patriarchy<sup>22</sup>.” Because of the fact that women are more vulnerable to expose to violence, encounter with the limitations of social rules more than men, they cannot benefit from social networks and have limited employment opportunities are the reasons why women affected from migrations more negatively than men in refugee literature<sup>23</sup>.



Kadifekale, İzmir

## *Syrian Woman Refugees Living Out Of the Camps*

Gender based problems Syrian women encountered in the process of armed conflicts after Syria crisis and while crossing the borders are mentioned in the report under the topic of “To Be a Woman Refugee and Syrian Woman”. Evaluation of the Syrian women’ cases which is the main purpose of the report was tried to be presented in the framework of “women refugee” phenomena in this part. Within the scope of the report, the problems of refugee women who live out of the camps and more vulnerable to the dangers were focused.

In this context, while fundamental living conditions such as sheltering facilities, access to health and education services, and recruitment of clothing and self-care requirements of Syrian women living out of the camps were examined and gender based problems they faced only because they are women were overemphasized in this section.

In the interviews conducted in the cities where the refugee population is excessive and close to borders and in metropolitans, the living conditions and the problems they face are become different because of the factors such as local conditions and culture of the cities and socio-economic and cultural diversity of the refugees. Accordingly, the problems of the women refugees are different.

### *Basic Life Conditions*

#### *Shelter Facilities*



**Public Housing of Old Primary Health Care Center is used as a home by the refugees. (Yavuzlu, Kilis)**

The shelter facilities vary according to the socio-economic condition of the refugees living out of the camps. While there are some Syrian refugees who buy or rent beautiful houses most of the shelters and places where refugees live are generally far beyond the humanitarian conditions. We encountered a lot of refugees, who suspend their living in the places which are extremely small, have no sink or bathroom, where families with 7-8 members live together, use the same sink, moisture level is high, and risky for health. That the broken windows of some of the houses are closed through putting nylons was witnessed.

As for the rental of the houses, they are extremely high in cities close to borders because of huge demand. Additional spaces where there is no sink or bathroom such as basements of the houses,



**Yavuzlu, Kilis**

storehouses of the buildings, and warehouses are also rented to live in. For this places which do not have required facilities, a rental is demanded between 100 TL and 1500 TL according to their sizes and features. Generally three or four Syrian families altogether rent the houses and other places. And in these houses furniture generally provided by helpful people is used. Mostly required households are particularly electronic home appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines, ovens; then small home appliances such as pots, plates, fork and spoon to be used in the kitchen; soft furnishings such as quilt and cushion; and furniture such as bed, and seating groups.

As a conclusion; it is witnessed that there are serious qualitative and quantitative deficiencies in terms of basically required furniture and shelter facilities. The basic problems in terms of shelter facilities are hygiene conditions in the houses, access to required energy resources for heating the home and water, many people try to live in small and narrow houses, rentals are highly exaggerated according to their physical conditions, they are deprived of the legal protection because of the renting without any contracts, insecure shelter position because of the risk that they can be disposed at any time and insufficient household appliances.

Woman refugees have to spend most of their times in these unhealthy sheltering conditions because of the low employment ratios, gender roles and psycho-social effects of refugee identity forcing them to live an isolated life from the society. Child care and housework are becoming harder for the women because of the existing conditions. It is witnessed that in crowded families, women have to wash the clothes, children's diapers and underpads of the sick abed by their hands and with cold water.



**Yavuzlu, Kilis**



Yavuzlu, Kilis

### *Clothing and Self Care Facilities*

The most available aid material by the helpful people is clothing materials. For this reason it can be said that when compared to other needs, clothing is the least needed aid material. However in winter it is very hard to find thick clothes, coat, hygienic underwear and pregnant clothes. Besides there were women refugees who said that both they and their children used the same clothes constantly. There are some problems about heating the water so the frequency of taking a shower is very low and it increases the risk of the infections. Especially the children and the pregnant women are under the risk of falling ill because of the microbes and bacterial risks. Apart from that, the negative situations in finding self care and cleaning products, clean water and heating the water causes doing self care superficially.

### *Accessibility to Health Services and Health Conditions*

Especially the refugees who live out of the camps carry high risks of infection and epidemic illnesses because of the insufficient general living conditions. It is determined that the refugees have some problems about reaching the health services while diagnosing and treating their illnesses. Until recently the refugees can only benefit from the health services in cities where there are camps. In 2013 from the Prime Ministry of the DEMP Presidency the restrictions of reaching health services of Syrian refugees were abandoned by the circular no 2013/8 which is about the 'About Syrian hosts health and other services'. Nevertheless the problems about reaching the health services of the refugees never have ended up completely. Getting the medicines by paying them is one of the problems that they told. It is getting harder and harder to reach the health services if there are illnesses which is needed to use regular drug and chronic illnesses that to be followed regularly.

The interview conducted with a refuge family living in the village of Yavuzlu, Kilis presents a typical example for the health problems of refugees.

The family stays in the wreck public housing of an old primary health care center. There are four more families living in that building. Some of the broken windows are covered by the nylons in that building. The wall plasters are spilt and the damp rate of the houses is very high. An Arabian family, N. family, lives in a house with ten people. They came from Halep two years ago. There are 5 women in the family. Two of the young women have chronic illnesses that required using regular drugs and treatment. S. is 28 years old. She has got leukemia. She has to go to hospital in Antep for changing her blood in every ten days. Besides S. is a deaf. They said that they spent 100 TL for the transportation to Antep in every ten days. Y. is 23 years old and she has serious diabetes. The illness has affected her kidneys, a kidney insufficiency has started and she has lost a lot of weight. Because of her being too thin caused breaks in her leg bones. She has to use regular drugs and go into dialysis but she cannot. It was obviously seen while interviewing she was suffering from severe kidney pains. They say that they have to buy the drugs by paying money and the drugs are so expensive, they have to pay 300-350 TL for the drugs each month. They also cannot get any help from the state. Only a person has a regular job in the family. S. is 27 years old and she is a teacher at a school in

Kilis which is for the Syrian refugees. He takes 475 TL as a salary. Apart from that, they have an income of working as a farmer and helpings of the neighbors. In winter they collect the woods around them and light the stove for heating. They say that there are too many workers and they have difficulties in finding a job and for 12 hours working only 25-30 TL is paid per day. They say that Turkey is an expensive country for living, before the crisis in Syria everything was much cheaper but it is the same as in Turkey now. The family has difficulties even in providing their daily needs and say that they have also difficulties in buying drugs for their patients. Like them the refugees who live in villages and towns have more problems such as the old people cannot access an old age security.

The Syrian woman refugees, besides the general life conditions results of health problems all refugees face with, they also have to overcome the additional difficulties of being a woman. The refugees are in a foreign country and they even have not an idea about this country's health systems and they do not benefit from the health services if it is not necessary. For this reason, especially within the refugees living out of the camps, the rate of benefiting from the protecting and preventing health services such as following the pregnancy of the pregnant women and vaccination of the children. While interviewing with the people for the report, two interviewed pregnant refugee women remarked that they do not go to pregnant obstetrics. It is also remarked that there are also women refugees who give birth at homes.

In all these negative circumstances women refugees feel the pressure of looking after themselves, the children and the other members of the family, and also they have to provide nutrition, cleaning etc. Refugee women carry the risk of falling mental and neurological disorders more because of the constant pressures and having an isolated life. Especially in puberty period when the personality development is not completed, the women refugees have to live this period in a different country and under risks of harassment and sexual abuse, poverty and deprivation. Because the unjust treatment, short term marriages and prostitution become widespread and this increases the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and it is another important problem faced with.

Consequently, it is seen that women refugees who live out of the camps generally unsupported from the point of women health, hygiene and family planning. Pregnant women's reaching the health services are too little and the pregnant women who are about to give birth may have to do this at their homes. Besides, the substantial conditions increase the risk of plaguing fatal illnesses such as HIV/AIDS and abortions in unhealthy and unsafe conditions.

### ***Accessibility to Education Services***

Refugee children who live out of the camps and left the schools without finishing have more problems in reaching the education services than the children who live in camps. Education service is given in some cities for the refugees living in camps and registered refugees and these refugees can attend the universities contractually. While refugees living out of the camps and Syrian people who cross the borders illegally and could not take the status of refugee cannot benefit from these opportunities widely, a few of them can benefit from these

education opportunities. While reporting, it is seen that the interviewed people have problems even in providing their daily needs and they seem to ignore the expenditures for education for now and on the other hand they carry serious worries for the future.

### ***Social Life***

It is seen that women refugees' daily lives are affected by the negative aspects of the society and these women live in an isolated life from the society sometimes because of their husbands or family pressure, while women who live alone decide this on their own. The researches conducted on this subject show that women live the psycho-social process harder because of the immigration factor.

The fact of being a refugee affects the women mostly because, especially when they were in Syria they were living in a determined socio-economic level but they meet with the hard conditions here; leaving their cultures, identities and habits and trying to live and orient themselves into a new culture with a foreigner and a refugee identity cause more traumatic processes. While interviewing it is observed that some of the refugee women have after trauma stress disorders, many of them have a depression with the despair and pessimism symptoms.

### ***Fundamental Need Analysis***

Basic life conditions reaching to a humanitarian level refugees living out of the camps should be taken under registration in order to benefit from the services. For sheltering, houses which provide minimum health conditions should be found, in order to pay the rents of these houses financial aid and employment opportunities should be created and in addition to these, facilities should be provided in order to access the education, health and psycho-social facilities and these are the preferential needs. Furthermore the basic needs of the refugees who live out of the camps can be sorted like this: Electronic house devices (refrigerator, washing machine, cooker), diaper and woman hygiene products, small house gadgets (saucepan, dish, spoon etc.) soft furnishing (quilt, blanket etc.) and big house furniture (bed, sofa, armchair, carpet etc.)

### ***Abusing Woman Refugees and Security Problem***

#### ***Sexual Harassment***

Sexual harassment, even in normal conditions, because of the socio-cultural reasons, is a matter of which women hesitate to talk about. The identity of 'refugee' and 'foreigner' brings extra hesitations for the women to tell the sexual harassment they experienced. The refugees living out of the camps and especially the women who are not under the registration hang by a thread of sexual harassment and abuse. The negative meanings loaded to cultural differences can widen the socio-cultural norms related to gender that legitimate abuse.

In the extent of the research, according to the interviews conducted with the local people, some negative evaluations have been encountered such as the Syrian women do not have the practice of self-care, their behaviors and manners etc. It is widely observed that these negative norms about the Syrian refugee women by distorting the subject of the concept of abuse are going to tend to be legitimated. It is seen that the local women tend to accept these negative norms and they show their reaction to the refugee women according to the heard incidents. While the anxieties of the people were almost same in every city where the interviews were conducted, in the border cities where the refugees live more we met this problem more. A charitable who works with the refugees in Hatay tells his observations like this:

*Local women have anxieties about that the refugee women are going to take their husbands from their hands. But nobody blames the men. There is a big danger for the Syrian women here. The local women take a dim view to the Syrians. They say that they unsettle them.*

A non-governmental organization representative who conducted interviews with the refugees in Urfa remarks that the imam marriages as being a second or third wife of a man has become widespread and the local women are so anxious about this and he says:

*The most heard incidents in Urfa's districts of Eyyubiye, Yakubiye, Baglarbası is the secret or consideration money marriages. Lots of them marry with the imam marriage; a few of them marry with formally. Divorcement rate is increasing. Consideration money marriages are being done. These kinds of marriages are generally done by the old men or middle aged men who want their second, third marriages. Local women are so anxious about this situation.*

The interviews conducted with the women from the local society in Kilis, they tell that there is an increase in the marriages to Syrian women, they relate this situation to the Syrian women's being well groomed and young, the women's and their families being so' willing 'about marrying to Turkish men and they do not want anything for marriages and all these things made Turkish men to choose Syrian women. But for these marriages only a few people blame the men for this abuse.

A woman from Iskenderun tells that they take a refugee woman in their home but after a while she felt discomfort about the woman and wanted the woman to be sent away. N. from Syrian stays in Izmir, Kagithane tells that some of her neighbors show negative reactions to them and for this reason they feel a social pressure.

All these gender based crooked noesis makes it harder for the refugees to tell the abuse and sexual harassment they encounter. While doing these researches the hesitation is clearly observed among the refugee women. The questions which are asked in order to get information about the war environment where they came from, the problems while passing the border and where they settle down and the possible sexual harassment they encounter, it was seen that they felt discomfort while answering these questions and by giving fast and short answers they try to circumlocution the subject. Among the interviewed 72 women only the 6 (8-9%) told the sexual harassment they encountered. There are 5 women who are polygamous

among the interviewed women. While researching women who had a sexual harassment or abuse rejected making an explanation is another situation come up against. It is seen that the refugees carry the anxiety if these incidents revealed out social norms and state's political attitudes may affect them negatively. Some of the Syrian people who were interviewed told that the news about abuse and sexual harassment are made by the people who support the Syrian regime and they use this against the Turkish government as a black propaganda and these news are not as exaggerated.

N. is sixteen years old and she lives in Izmir, Karabaglar with her sister and brother –in- law tells that in the neighborhood there is a man in his forties often abuse her and one of her refugee friend, and she says that the same thing is happening at work by the employees and the men who abuse the women say that their aim is only to give a hand:

*'...They behave the Syrian girls as if they are cheap goods, they look them badly. At work the boss said one of my Syrian friend' would you like to marry my son, why are you working in this job, come and be your home's wife' but my friend did not accept and then he offered one thousand Turkish Liras to my friend in order to marry his son...'*

Z. is 42 years old and she immigrated Antep from Halep and she had lost her husband and son at war. She is earning her life by cooking for Syrian refugees at a relief agency and she earns 20 TL per day. Z. says that she has taken some marriage proposals as being a second wife but she says that she does not accept and she encountered abuse both physically and verbally by the host. Z. tells that the host was afraid after this incident and he also afraid of that she could tell this to others and he behaved firstly to defamation her and he also began to tell' *she is dishonoring the neighborhood'*

N. was born in Halep and she is 36 years old. While she was attending the faculty of law and she was at the third class, she left her school and immigrated to Turkey because of the war. She lives with her two sisters and mother in Antep. She tells that their economic level was fine before the war; they had olive and wheat farms when they were in Syria. They want to go to France, where their brother lives, but they could not go because of the formal obstacles. They tell that they exposure discrimination and abuse because of their being Kurd and women:

*'...We are Kurds. We noticed this. The relief agencies here only help the Arab refugees but when they hear that we are Kurds they give up helping or they give a little. Even if they give, they do not come back again...'*

While interviewing N.'s sister tells the abuse she experienced and the treatment that the Syrian refugee women exposure:

*'I began to work at a shoe shop at Karşıyaka. The employee began to abuse me verbally and by his looks. He always told to me' I like you so much' and something like this. I gave up working because I could not resist this. Here, as our being Syrian'*

*that's we escaped from the war and came here and people saw us as if we are second class people. My sister attended the faculty of law until the third class. Because of the war she had to leave the university. Now, men who don't have a job or who have children want to marry with her. They are trying to benefit from our situation."*

S. who is 37 years old live in Antep with her three children. Her son is working at a restaurant and they have 560 TL incomes monthly. They are staying at a house for rent and she explains the reasons why they don't stay at a camp:

*" We are staying at a house for rent. We have economical problems but here is better than the refugee camps. Camps are not safe. We lock the door and stay safely here."*

S. tells that they don't feel themselves in safe at the camps so they live out of the camps and she tells that she exposure sexual harassment out of the camps. She tells that she took proposals of marriage from a man who has two wives and offered her to be his third wife and she adds that she took similar proposals from other a few of men. She tells that their old householder wanted to marry her 16 year-old daughter and they refused this but he evicted them. She also says that their new householder offered her to marry to him with imam marriage as his second wife and if she accepts he would decrease the hire purchase. S.'s 16 year old daughter says this:

*" I could not go out properly until we came here because I was afraid of the abuses. As a result of this I gained a lot of weight because of inaction."*

### ***Marrying at a Very Early Age and Polygamies***

Another kind of abuse that the Syrian women refugees face to is marrying at an early age or forcing them to marry as a second or third wife of a man or they have to do so. The interviews conducted with the local people remark that before the Syrian crisis, especially in the border cities, there was a culture of marrying to Syrian women. The commercial relationships coming from the past, polygamy's being a cultural norm in Syria caused a reflection of this culture in these cities partly. After the crisis and with the immigrations this concept has gained different dimensions by increasing so it turns into an abuse area. According to the data gathered from the interviews with the local society and the women who had polygamies; there are matchmakers derived between the men and the refugees who want to marry to Syrian women informally. These marriages have turned into a sector where the specific amounts are talked. These kinds of marriages are more often seen in Antep, Kilis, Hatay, Urfa and Batman where the refugees live densely. It is said that the price of the marriages change between 2-10 thousand TL and the matchmakers organize these marriages, there are higher amounts talked samples are also available. It is also indicated that especially the girls between 15-20 years old are preferred and while charging women's age, physical appearance and health conditions the determiners.

Some of the people who change this situation into a commercial do this work by taking between 250-500 TL commissions. 2-5 thousand TL is given to the families as bride price. Matchmakers transmit the women to the purchasers that they had determined in Syria. Sometimes they make the purchasers go through the border and show the women there, sometimes they show the women at the border or they bring the women in Turkey. If the purchasers like the women imam marriage is done and the women delivered to the Turkish men.

Especially there are purchasers in Kilis, Antep, Hatay and around cities and in addition to that there are people in everywhere in Turkey who want to marry the Syrian women and reach matchmakers and marry in this way. A person interviewed in Bursa told that one of his relatives wanted to marry a Syrian woman and married by the mediator of the matchmaker. The matchmaker firstly showed a 13 year old girl in exchange for 7 thousand TL but his relative wanted to marry an older one and the matchmaker found another 18 year old girl in exchange for 4 thousand TL.

These kinds of marriages have lasted shortly, and it is stated that there are people who have married and divorced with one more refugees. The women who have to marry or force to marry are generally used as helping personnel at homes.

H. is 20 years old and interviewed in Urfa says that she was married to when she was in Syria but she was exposed to violence and got divorced. After a while she came to Turkey she got married to 45 year old man as his second wife in exchange for 3 thousand TL. She had a daughter. She lived with the first wife in the same home. H. says that her husband minds whatever his first wife says and at home she suffers from oppression of her fellow. She says'' *everything is in her hand. Everything should be as she wants.*''

M. is 30 years old and while she was attending literature faculty of the university, she had to come to Urfa with her family because of the war and she tells that they had too difficult days, they couldn't find a job and went to Mersin but they couldn't find a lodging and came back to Urfa again and she tells these:'' We didn't have any money and somewhere to stay. A few sensitive people rent a house for us. They paid our rent money for a while. We were trying to support ourselves with the helps and the earnings of my brother's.''M. was dreaming to finish her school in her country and get a good job but she had to accept the proposal of marriage as being the third wife of a man and she says:

*'' We had never wanted any help from the other people in our lives. It was so difficult for us. When we had to empty the house where we stayed all of my family felt anxious about this. ''*

M. says that her husband convinced her that he would divorce the other women and she accepted this proposal according to his promise, and she took this decision because of the difficulties she lived and she did not want to be a burden on her family's shoulders.

Batman Bar Woman Rights Commission Member Lawyer Secil Erpolat states that also in Batman there are marriages to the imam with the young Syrian girls which have turned into a commercial and mostly a matchmaker mediate these marriages and she tells these events from the point of the judicial cases she has met:

*‘ ‘ We know that it is widespread in this region by the mediation of the matchmakers in exchange for money the children are got married. Especially the children’s are being married to under the name of bride price is widely seen here. Some matchmakers mediate these situations between Turkey and Syria. By showing the photos, the women are selected by the purchasers. Young women are deceived by a better life or a sum of money or gold. Unfortunately, mostly the girls aged 15-18 are preferred. But this age can be up to 25. The girls who are at the age of a child generally don’t know the fact that they are going to marry, they think that they are going to live in Turkey because of the promises given them but they have to marry to old men in exchange for the money her family has taken. In these informal marriages done with these children or young women as a second wife of a man, the young woman is used as a slave both the man and the other wife.*

*An incident that we know, at a petrol station in Nusaybin selected among a catalog consisted of photos of the women, a refugee woman marries to a man as a second wife in exchange for 2 thousand TL but she escapes from the home because of the violence she exposed both from the man and the first wife and refuges to somebody’s home. Then, she is sent by the mediate of the government agencies firstly to Hatay and then to Ankara to a women’s shelter. In another incident, a 16 year -old girl is purchased by a 60 year -old man in exchange for 10 thousand TL. The girl resists not going in his house in GAP neighborhood and she achieves running away. The neighbors call the police and the girl is taken away by the police officers.’ ’*

These marriages that are done in exchange for money and have turned into a commercial practice are tried to be legitimate by asserting some socio-cultural norms. Local women in the society society’s women related these marriages generally to Syrian’s women’s do not demand anything from these marriages except the money given to the matchmaker and the family and their being young captivates the men about these marriages, some male interviewers claim that these marriages are done for just saving them. The usual preferred age rang among women is between 15-20, with physical qualities being selective a component for a men. The men are typically middle-aged and up who are demanding to get married, as the interviewee further reflects that polygamy is becoming widespread.

In an article series post from the ‘Milliye’t newspaper which relates to the problems of the Syrian women refugees’, the subject on abuse is also dealt with that is usually taken into consideration by a health officer.

*Health officer H.G.says that ‘ ‘ women coming from Syria get married at the ages of 14-15 and they become mothers. The fact that the Turkish men get married to them in*

*a free charge of way considers the sexual harassment...All in all the Syrians neither demand goods nor dowry. That's, in all circumstances this situation appeals the men to get marry with these women. They are chosen as a first or second, third wife with an imam marriage.''*

*The village's chief's son where H.G. works had married in the same way.''* Wealthy or not, nearly all of them want a second wife. The man goes and brings one and introduces as 'this is my second wife'. The first wife is generally uneducated and does not have a social security so she cannot say anything...''

In the same article series, an interview conducted with a school manager who had a second marriage presents his case. This interview presents an example of socio-cultural norms to these kinds of marriages.

*'The school manager of a school where the Syrian refugee children are educated, Mr.S.'s first wife is from Hatay, his second wife is from Syria. Mr.S. brings the subject to the 'immorality of the westerns 'when we ask what does your wife says to this situation. I got married to my second wife 5 years ago. She is a Syrian. She is 43 years old now. She was an academician at the faculty of theology. She settled down here after the war. Now, she lives upstairs and the first wife lives downstairs of the apartment. Westerns claim that they respect the women. Well, who is using the woman in the advertisements of goods? They are criticizing the Islam because Islam gives permission to polygamy! Let's do a statistics in west, who has a sexual relation with the woman whom they married to? You cannot find even one percent! Isn't it a big crime if a man infects his wife because of the illegitimate relationships he lived? How a foolish thing is that? How many darlings a man got in west? Instead of these things marrying to a second wife seems to me more morally. Among the Syrians there are girls who suppose that they find a job but entrapped at the end. People who are unscrupulous benefit from their innocence. ''*

In these marriages only the second and third wives are not affected negatively' The first wife' lives this process traumatically and generally she gets another status to get over this problem. F. is 56 years old and interviewed in Ankara as she expresses her feelings about her husband's second marriage:

*'I was very sorry at the beginning, whenever I got bored I was going out to take a breath. I got accustomed to late. My husband doesn't behave her differently. As I am older than her I rule the roast. God knows she obeys my rules.''*

### ***Human Trafficking, Prostitution and Sexual Slavery***

The atmosphere of war creates a traumatic experience where the people are trying to survive and are abused. In this process, an increase in prostitution is observed where gangs who are present make human trafficking a custom, utilizing women as sex slaves. Human trafficking is an illegal movement of people, typically for the purposes of forced labor or commercial

sexual exploitation, which is regarded as a serious crime. There are severe claims, news and forensic evidences that in all the cities where the Syrian refugees settled, prostitution is visible. The women usually receive low wages and especially work in the border cities where transactions are widespread, and women used as sexual slaves. Especially the women who do not have a passport and cross the border illegally have a higher risk to get into the hands of abuse by the gang members.

In the border cities, border gangs have been formed who bring the fugitives into the cities or into the bus terminal regions where 'refugee smuggling' has become a main source of income. Here we should differentiate the 'refugee smuggling' with 'human trafficking'. In the 'refugee smuggling' there is no force used against the people. That's to say that in refugee smuggling the potential illegal refugee contact with the smuggler is by himself, and after the smuggler take his money provides the refugee to enter or exist the country by illegal means. When it comes to 'human trafficking' the victim is forced or deceived etc. and his/her will is bypassed and captured and while he /she doing the things they wanted he/she cannot behave according to his/her will. In human trafficking the perpetrator wants a perpetual relationship with his victim developing his relationship with the victim by this way. These relationships occur in different ways such as coercion, sexual slavery or labor slavery, taking the honor of and freedom of the victim. Whereas in refugee smuggling' the exploitation relationship between the monger and the victim ends up when the refugee is granted permission to go in or out of the country where theyd like to go.

Some detailed information about how the smugglers and the mongers who force woman work to as sex slave from the interviews conducted was conducted with primarily the two mongers who dis refugee smuggling in Kilis.

According to the information compiled from the refugee smugglers; they take the refugees who pass the border illegally to the centre of Kilis in the exchange for a thousand-half and a thousand SYP (15-20 TL). Some of them stay in Kilis and some of them are delivered to other cities with the help of the smugglers. Refugee smuggling has become a sector here and they earn a good profit from this type of occupation. They give 1-2 thousand TL to some of the police soldiers who misuse their job in return of closing their eyes to these events.

One of the serious claims of refugee smugglers is like this: The Syrian families and women are tricked by the mongers who do human trafficking; they organize an imam marriage in Syria and they bring them in Turkey by this way, after coming to Turkey they settle in a house and after a while they force to do prostitution. The women who had dreams of a good marriage and contemplate that they will live in a safe environment way from the war find themselves in a prostitution bog. If they tend to object they are exposed to violence and they work under threat and pressure. The families are convinced by giving them 2-5 thousand TL as a bride price believing that their daughters are going to live in better conditions in Turkey.

It was stated that the women who are the victims of human trafficking are usually aged 15-18. The limit age sometimes can fall to 13, as the girls aged 15-20 are demanded mostly in

prostitution sector. It is said that people who do this work have become gangs and sometimes they can argue and fight among themselves. Mostly the young women are preferred for being prostitutes which is why they work with low prices and are benefited from their victimhood.



The refugees who cross the Syria border illegally.(Elbeyli, Kilis)



The refugees who cross the Syria border illegally.(Elbeyli, Kilis)

It is determined that there are some people who took part in this kind of in Kilis, before the Syrian crisis in Halep for the people who were dealing with prostitution and the crisis environment provided the mongers to trap the young girls. These people benefited from the girls' victimhood, convincing their families to trap them and use them as a sexual slave. After the borders check-points were closed, human trafficking and illegal crossings had increased.

Besides this it was stated that there are women who live in the container cities and make prostitution either by their will or forced to men. It is stated that once it was hard to go in or go out of the container cities but now by showing the identity cards it is free to go in or go out at determined times, as for those who cannot go in have to wait till the next day.

M. is 24 years old and he has worked in a refugee smuggling for a while, he says that a man named M. aged 45-50 often goes to Syria and comes back with a woman, this situation takes their attention and they began to follow him. Whenever he is asked he replies that 'she is my imam marriage wife', my daughter or my relative. After a while they learn that he had brought nearly 30 women by making imam marriages and deceiving them and their families bringing them into Turkey acting as a prostitute. For this reason, they forbid his passing from their region and complained against him to the militias of the opponent Turkmen group

Muhammed Fetih Front. They hear that the man was captured by the militias while crossing the border and they executed him by giving electricity to his body.

This living human crisis has created a gap causing every kind of human abuse and smuggling between both of the countries' border cities to progress. Crossing from Turkey to Syria can be done whenever wanted. Especially crossing is very easy to Halep, Azez, Düden, Kefergani, Havar towns. By this method, border commerce -as it was widespread from the past-has increased. Mostly cigarette and petrol are brought in the border commerce. Normally petrol is 5.5 TL per liter in Turkey but it can be from around 2-2.25 TL it can be provided from Syria. Gold, electronic things and some other food products are other commercial products. The safety gap causes gun, marijuana and opiate drug (ecstasy, captagon etc.) to smuggle along. In the crossings of these products it is claimed that a sum of money is given to the police soldiers who abuse their duty.

Refugee smuggling is known by the local society and accepted positively. The refugees are taken from the border and brought to the bus terminal and delivered to the other cities in Turkey. If this system does not exist, they think that all of the refugees will crowd together in their own cities. It is claimed that each day one-two thousands of refugees crossing from the borders illegally and they are delivered to other cities in Turkey, especially to Urfa and Antep. Before the smuggling had became a system, the refugees settled in village rooms, primary health care services and teacher public housings, but after a while local society couldn't resist this situation and they closed their eyes to refugee smuggling. Fugitive refugees can cross the border indiscreetly by minibuses, vans or every kind of land vehicle.



Bus terminal, Kilis

Adding on, the crimes of Syrians committed are talked widely among the local society and thus they react seriously. It is claimed that from Turkey to Syria stolen automobile, motorcycle, tractor etc. are smuggled. The interviewed smugglers stated that because of the security gap in the borders some of the women who come alone are kidnapped around the borders and are raped. Fugitive refugees' goods and money is usurped but these incidents are not reflected to judicial process.

There are similar speculations In the provinces of like Urfa, Batman, Hatay where the refugees live densely. Batman Bar Woman Rights Commission Member Lawyer Secil Erpolat states that young Syrian refugee girls are abused in the prostitution sector and informs his findings from the judicial processes as the following:

*‘‘In that region a new prostitution sector has been formed and Syrian refugees are abused in this sector. According to the information we got from the prosecution, the children girls who panhandle are forced to prostitution by benefiting from their victimhood. According to the telephone monitoring of the prosecution and the information we reached the children girls are forced to prostitution in exchange for 20-50 TL. In some they don't give any money; instead they give food or any other helping material. In these prostitution events the children's' age is important while charging. The people, who abuse these children and women by benefiting from their victimhood, recommend this to each other and unfortunately these incidents become widespread. Sometimes a woman victim of the prostitution recommend one of her friends and in this way the other woman also taken into this bog.*

*According to prosecution monitory of the telephone calls, and this incident was reflected into judicial process, 12-13 aged two girls who panhandle were recommended from somebody to one of his friends to whore with these two girls. The suspects were prisoners for more than one year but they were released by the court pending a trial because the girls ran away.’’*

### ***Employment Issue and Workforce Exploitation***

Another problem both in the border cities and within the big cities, has to do with refugees working in jobs with a sum of money and are being used as cheap labor workers. Especially some border cities population has increased twice. This situation has affected and changed the socio-cultural configuration and local economy immensely. This density has lived up the local economy partly but it also caused expensiveness in some products. House rent prices doubled and tripled. The interviews conducted in Kilis show that before the crisis the house rent prices were among 200-250, but also increases up to 750 now. Especially in the southern regions where Syrian refugees live densely, the refugees work as cheap labor in farming, industry, service and nearly in all sectors.

Normally the rate of women employment is low and when the language problems and social sex racism is added on; it becomes very difficult for the refugees to find a job. Because the

employment facilities are restricted, it makes the women depend more on men. The women who find a chance to work generally work as cleaning up or looking after a child, ill or an old person, farming, tourism and servicing sectors yet as their work goes unrecorded with low wages and in a context of bad working conditions.

Among the interviewed refugee women under research, the working rate is very low. More than 80% women stated that they are not working. Women refugee employment is low because of the social sex discrimination, along with the language problems and safety concerns. Working women refugees generally work on farms in villages and towns, as they work in textile and service sectors in the city centers.

As the refugees are predominantly women and children, these two groups are more prone to abuse in the employment sectors. During their period of development, they are kept away from games, education and other social facilities and have to work in some sectors such as cheap labor. Refugee women who are cleaners are usually given low wages. Normally, a cleaner woman takes 75-100 TL but Syrian women complete this chore for 10-15 TL. In other sectors, children and women are worked with low prices.

An interview conducted with a family in İzmir say that they have three daughters who are 15, 17, and 22 years old who work at a textile factory six days per a week between the hours 8.00-21.00 in exchange for 100 TL. It was informed that the younger refugees work with much more lower salaries. In İzmir, a manager of an association which was built by the Syrians states that a local union protested the Syrians in Isikkent because the Syrians caused a decrease in labor market, they met with the union steward and told them why they have to work with low salaries and he adds:

*“ Who can say that one day Turkish people won't lie helpless and live the same problems”*

### **EVALUATION AND SUGGESTIONS**

According to the data got from the interviews conducted under research, it is estimated that the number of the refugees exceeded 1 million and most of them live out of the camps, as observed that the living conditions, health conditions for children and women were insufficient in order for them to go with their lives. Turkey has to determine the problems of the refugees in general. In private the children and women who are more under the risk should be determined and initiatives should be taken in order to broaden preservation and support programs.

Healing the conditions of the refugee women is not free from the precautions that are going to be taken for the refugees. The precautions are important in record for shelter, health, education, and security for the refugees. Besides the conditions determined under research the living conditions and the abuse the women face exemplifies that precautions should be taken for the refugee women.

### **Some Determinations and Precautions on Politics and Substructure for Refugees:**

- The fact should be accepted by domestic politics that the Syrian refugees will live for a long time in Turkey, and according to this, applicable models should be designed that could clear ground the determined problems in security and health which needs to be solved. The refugees are anxious to return to their homeland country, which should be clearly understood and respected as being the basic human right. Beyond temporary protection, new politics should be devised and developed in order to make integration of the Syrian refugee people smooth into the Turkish society.
- In this sense cooperation with the international society should be developed and the responsibility should be shared. The hazardous living conditions of the refugees should be taken into consideration as possible abuse should be prevented in this way.
- Positive manners towards the refugees should be reinforced in front of the society and society' awareness should be raised concerning the rights and conditions of the refugees, along with possible activities organized for this. In order to achieve this there should be a coalition between both the nongovernmental organizations and formal organizations.
- Especially DEMP and the other local and general governmental units related to refugees, state institutions and organizations should be in an active cooperation with the nongovernmental organizations, by taking consultancy service from these nongovernmental organizations, where a system should be formed providing the coordination among these nongovernmental organizations. In order to heal the conditions of refugees, governmental organizations should benefit from the nongovernmental organizations, which currently lacks support in this field. All related nongovernmental organizations and formal organizations coordination should be provided. This will determine the needs and prevent wastage where a system should be developed in order to follow making it easier by supporting all the information about refugees, needs analysis and works. Forming a technical and logistic substructure should be implemented.
- Barricading entry points and rejecting people who want refuge in the country led to human trafficking and abuse. Thus thousands of refugees enter illegally and it carries serious risks.
- The reasons why the refugees do not want to live in camps should be investigated, and they should not force to live in camps. Even if the positive conditions were formed enabling refugees to go back, it seemed as if the refugees did not prefer the camps. For this reason, refugees who don't want to stay in the camps must be solved, and these the problems should be solved with the security precautions increased.

- The refugees who don't want to go back to their country and settle in Turkey by integrating the society should be understood and respected, and appropriate plans should be developed which are the essential rights of the asylum. Restrictions should be removed if a refugee wants to refuge in another country.
- More efforts should be done for the refugees who live out of the camps from the point of shelter, health, food, and education; The access to basic services should be provided and necessary regulations should be done in problematic areas.
- Recording the refugees is a necessity according to international protect. By recording the refugees the lacking needs can be determined, as reaching the services will be provided and it will be easy for the nongovernmental organizations and relief works to deliver donations. Recording is also important to form long term solutions and security. For this reason an identity card should be given to the refugees that states that they are under the international protect and with this card they should benefit from health and the other public services. Legal or illegal all of the refugees should be recorded.If possible the record process should be done in the cooperation with BMMYK. While recording and place of residence processes no money should be demanded. Local governments, governorship and mukhtar should work effectively for recording.
- The basic reason for not reaching the services is the language, since they cannot communicate. To make it easier in all demanded organizations there should be a translator who can speak Arabian and Kurdish.
- The employment problem should be solved an a working unrecorded should be prevented. Working and inhibition permission should be given easily to the refugees and the precautions should be increased to prevent illegal working by making necessity legal regulations.
- The education facilities should be increased and psychosocial supports should be developed as they are becoming widespread in order to prevent mendicancy and abuse of the children labor.

### ***Evaluations and Suggestions Particularly for the Woman Refugee's Situations***

- The people who make law and practice should be informed about the women refugees and immigrations along with the sex awareness that should be provided.
- While developing politics about women refugees, their involvement should be provided in this process. The involvement will be a good step to provide to determine

the needs and provide them. Selected by the refugee women they should be taken into this process actively.

- Nongovernmental organizations activities about raising awareness women rights should be accessed being beneficial.
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- In the extent of the research it is seen that the polygamies are a socio cultural issue in the region and it has been turned into an opportunity forming a closed formed a closed' women trafficking', sometimes the young sometimes the children refugees girls( sometimes by forces of their families sometimes their being in a victimhood and the feel of not being a burden on their families shoulders they consent these marriages as they see this a salvation) marry to in exchange for money, and these marriages prevail shortly because they don't have a legal base, in fact these women are abused by this way. Besides, these marriages are used to trap the women into prostitution, with serious claims that that in their country and as a result marrying with imam marriage deceives refugees and some gangs are derived who do this and human trafficking. These claims should be investigated immediately and if the claims are true the responsible should be trialed and pressed charges against. These kinds of marriages, which the refugee women have to do, should be prevented by the working of all formal organizations and nongovernmental organizations within coordination.
- More efforts should be put forth in order to broaden the shelter, nutrition and health facilities. We need to protect and support programs that could present services which should aim at the women who are under risk and especially residing out of the camps.
- Employment, education, vocational courses should be organized for the refugee women. Language courses should be opened. Scholarships should be provided for these women in order that they can participate these educations.
- In the content of employment, education and vocational courses should provide encouragement as precautions should be taken, and as for women with children some supports should be given about child caring and education.
- The women who had lost one of her family members or expose to the violence, abuse or sexual harassment should be rehabilitated in order to help to get rid of these difficulties, and these necessary psycho social support systems should be formed, for women living out of the camps who should benefit from these facilities.
- In order to develop the women's skill about orientating process of the immigration and handle the problems and raise the awareness of their power and use it, some work regarding social service should be implemented.

## **GRAPHICS**

In the extent of the research the demographic data of the interviewed Syrian woman refugees are as follow:

Graph 1) Range according to the ethnicity: Arab, Kurd and Turkman

Graph 2) Range according to the age groups:

- 15-20 year-olds
- 20-25 year- olds
- 25-30 year-olds
- 30-40 year-olds
- 40-50 year-olds
- 50+ year-olds

Graph 3) Range according to the marital situations:

- Married
- Married (Husband is in Syria and she cannot hear from him)
- Married (Polygamies)
- Single
- Single (her husband was killed during the war)

Graph 4) Range according to the education levels:

- No school
- Primary school
- Secondary school
- High school
- Two-year degree
- Faculty

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**Telephone:** +90 312 418 1046

**Fax:** +90 312 418 7093

**Web:** [www.mazlumder.org](http://www.mazlumder.org)

**E-mail:** [info@mazlumder.org](mailto:info@mazlumder.org)

**Address:** Mithat Paşa Street. No:62/4 Kızılay/ Ankara



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