

ANNUAL RESERVATION RUN

The annual Reservation Run is Saturday, Feb.13. The race starts at 7:30 a.m., but packet pick up begins at 6:30 a.m. To register for the race, go to booneathletics.ocps.net.



DO YOU THINK THE U.S. SHOULD ACCEPT REFUGEES?

"Yes, because [denying them] would go against our nation's foundation."
- Valerie Cintron-Malave, sophomore

Syrians need refuge

viewpoint

Syrian refugees need access to the United States to have religious equity during the Syrian Civil War.

By JACK RUMMLER

Living in constant danger due to an ongoing civil war, Syrians seek refuge from one of the most terrifying crises of modern time.

Since the start of the Syrian Civil War, March 2011, 220,000 people have died. United States' leaders discuss the possibility of accepting 10,000 refugees a year. Due to recent events caused by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), Americans are questioning whether it is safe or not to admit refugees.

The issue of admitting refugees sparked controversy in politics and media, with some presidential candidates and governors telling their supporters they will not relocate refugees in their state. The United States can promote safety for Syrians by allowing them refuge in their state.

Syrian refugees do not sympathize with ISIS. If these refugees agreed with ISIS' message, they would not want to flee their homeland. While ISIS condemns those who leave, Syrians are seeking safety.

If the U.S. does not allow refugees admission, they are only helping ISIS. According to Aaron Zelin, a Jihadist analyst, when refugees flee the Islamic State, it backlashes ISIS' message of self-sufficiency. ISIS argues to western countries that the United States and Europe do not want to assist Syrian refugees. By not admitting refugees, western countries help ISIS by validating the message that Syrian

Muslims' only salvation is the Islamic State.

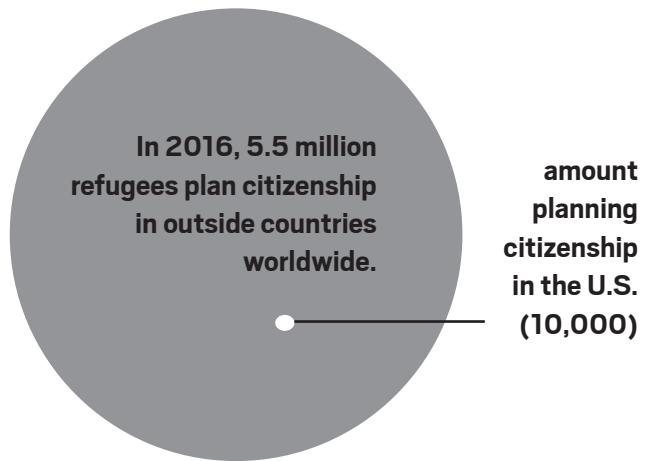
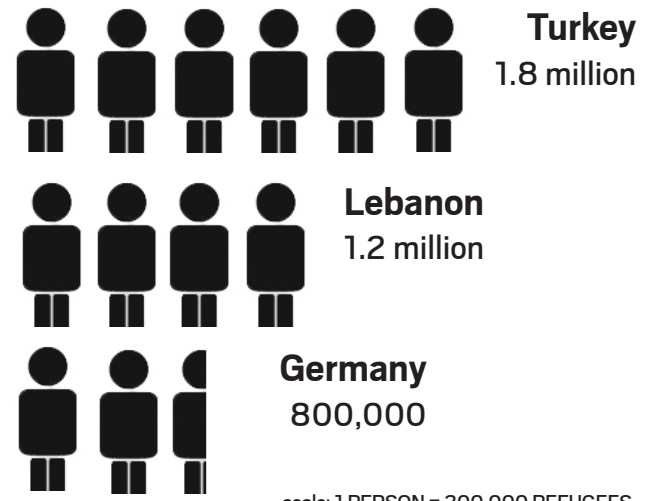
The generalization that all terrorism exists in Islam creates fear in U.S. citizens. However, homegrown terrorism scopes nationwide. Since the 9/11 attacks, 784,395 refugees immigrated to the United States. Only three Syrian refugees were arrested for terrorism conspiracy, according to the Migration Policy Institute in 2014. Despite U.S. citizens believing Syrians commit more atrocities than ones who live in the country, one in 22,541 Americans citizens committed murder, as opposed to one in every 286,543 refugees convicted of terrorism attacks.

The Syrian War has affected nearly 12 million individuals, more than the Haiti earthquake in 2010, Hurricane Katrina and the Indian tsunami in 2004. The Middle East currently faces an exuberant amount of violence. Since 2011, 250,000 to 350,000 have died including 12,000 children. Over a million people in the last five years suffered serious wounds or disability from war violence, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. With collapsed infrastructure, children do not have access to healthy development, healthcare and education. As humans, sympathizing with innocent Syrians will help them escape this harsh turmoil.

Throughout the U.S., accepting Syrians in the country is unpopular. In a Bloomberg National Politics poll, only 28 percent of citizens want to admit refugees. The majority believes Syrians want violence and religious supremacy. Contrary to the fact, these refugees desire a place to coexist and promote Islam's value of peace.

Syrians deserve equal opportunity in the U.S. and generalizing them as terrorists shows ignorance.

Top three countries accepting Syrian refugees



source: THE INQUISITER

publicforum

Do you think the United States should accept Syrian refugees despite recent terrorism, or reject them? Here's what some of you had to say on the topic.

Send letters to the editor

to HiLights, 1000 E. Kaley St., Orlando, FL 32806, or drop off in Room 224. You can also send to boonepubs@gmail.com. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. To be considered for print, all letters must be signed and cannot contain libelous information.

Allow them to find a home

I think the United States should continue accepting refugees even with recent terrorism. I think this because many refugees actually do need help and are coming to the U.S. in search of a new home. I also think we should accept them because there are a lot more of them needing help and none of them are coming over here to harm our country.

Chase Comprosky, freshman

Homegrown terrorism exists

I think the U.S. should accept Syrian refugees. Terrorism attacks happen all the time, even by American themselves. It's ironic how a white American can shoot up a school and it's no big deal. When we reject refugees, we are closing our doors to other human beings. Peace is something we all want. Limiting our help because someone is a certain religion goes against what America is about.

Rania Orellano Llaguna, senior

Do not discriminate

America should allow the refugees to seek safety here. It is not fair or constitutional for us to block Syrians because of the radical action of those who share their religious beliefs. Our First Amendment protects from discrimination because of their faith. America was founded on the beliefs of religious freedom. Religious freedom is stripped of its stability when it is unfairly denied.

Chasity Maynard, sophomore

Syrians need safety

Refugees should still be allowed in despite recent terrorism because they are still human. It shouldn't matter their religion because America is supposed to be the melting pot. We as citizens of the U.S. are all from different backgrounds. It is not fair for us to say no to someone who just wants a place to live, it is inhumane to deny someone in need of a place to live. Since 2001, we have accepted over 700,000 refugees, so why should we stop now? Terrorism can happen

anywhere from anyone, so we should not deny anyone for trying to find a place to live.

Alyssa Skeete, junior

Do background checks

I think refugees should still be allowed into our country. However, detailed background checks and more knowledge of who is coming in should be added to the equation as well. I believe people from other countries, even in the Middle East, should be able to enjoy the life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness this country has to offer. I still do not want terrorists to run around spreading fear and destruction just like anyone else, that's why detailed checks should be applied to anyone who wants to get in.

Jaxsen Anagnostis, sophomore

Protect America first

I don't think the U.S. should continue accepting refugees because it endangers our own people. Of course it is difficult and sad to turn

away refugees who have nowhere else to go but it is in our best interest to keep ourselves safe and avoid further damage. Doing this is not heartless, it is being cautious to protect American citizens any way possible. We all are dealing with something, refugees are dealing with recovery while the U.S. is dealing with protecting itself from terrorism.

James Duckworth, junior

Refugees bring problems

I do not think the United States should let the refugees in until they have run background checks because many refugees could be linked towards terrorists and that could harm the citizens of the United States. Also, from seeing videos of refugees being let in Germany, many refugees have vandalized innocent people's homes and causing large uproars. The video I saw changed the way I respond to this question because if we let a bunch of refugees in, how do we know they will follow our laws and respect our rights?

Gracie Blastis, freshman

hilights newspaper

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