



## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

### Syrian Women Migrants to Europe

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#### EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ Since January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the United Nations reports that of the 4,603,363 registered Syrian refugees in the Middle East and North Africa, 50.7% are women.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, roughly 20% of Syrian migrants who traveled into Europe through Greece have been Syrian women.<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ In 2015, Doctors of the World interviewed over 300 pregnant migrant women in clinics ranging from Belgium to Turkey, over 80% of whom reported having no access to health care prior to consulting the NGO.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ According to the United Nations, of the projected 70,000 Syrian women traveling into Europe via the Mediterranean from September 2015 to March 2016, roughly 4,200 are pregnant and are in need of medical care, and about 1,400 are at risk of sexual violence.<sup>4</sup>
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that Syrian women migrants in the Eastern Mediterranean are particularly at risk to gender based violence, as 37% of women in the region have reported suffering from “intimate partner violence”<sup>5</sup>
- ❖ According to a report produced by Amnesty International on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 regarding sexual harassment of Syrian and Iraqi refugees, of the 40 women and girls interviewed in Northern Europe, most have reported “being groped or pressured to have sex by smugglers” during each step of their journey into Europe, feeling particularly threatened in transitory countries, such as Hungary and Greece.<sup>6</sup>
- ❖ The United Nations estimates that of the Syrian women migrating to Europe, roughly 70,000 risk unsafe deliveries of their babies due to the lack of healthcare facilities.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

<sup>2</sup> <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/country.php?id=83>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/health-consumers/ngo-pregnant-migrants-europe-lack-basic-healthcare-314651>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.unfpa.org/press/europe%E2%80%99s-refugee-crisis-worsens-thousands-women-and-girls-move-urgently-need-reproductive>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.humanityinaction.org/knowledgebase/583-the-response-to-syrian-refugee-women-s-health-needs-in-lebanon-turkey-and-jordan-and-recommendations-for-improved-practice>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/01/female-refugees-face-physical-assault-exploitation-and-sexual-harassment-on-their-journey-through-europe/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.refinery29.com/2015/09/93129/europe-refugee-crisis>