

# What can you do for Syria?



## 1. Inform yourself and talk about it

- *The Syria Campaign* and *Planet Syria*;
- Citizen journalist Rami Jarrah (on Facebook);
- Raed Fares, *Occupied Kafranbel* (on Facebook);
- Facebook pages: *Civic Activism in Syria and Iraq*, *ANA Press*, *Humans of Syria* and *Local Coordination Committee of Syria*;
- Websites: *Syria Deeply*, *Syria in Crisis* en *Syria Direct*;
- *The Day After Association*.
- *Citizens for Syria*

## 2. Support local peace forces and Syrian civil society organizations

A few examples:

- ***Syrian Civil Defense (White Helmets):***

The White Helmets are an organization of impartial volunteers providing help to the victims of the Syrian regime's indiscriminate bombing. They have rescued more than 50.000 lives by searching for citizens that have been buried by debris. They are also developing systems to warn citizens for approaching alerts, and they help to evacuate targeted areas, extinguish fires, offer first aid and rebuild elementary infrastructures. See <http://syriacivildefense.org/> and <http://www.whitehelmets.org>.

- ***Kesh Malek:***

Kesh Malek governs nine schools in the center of Aleppo, allowing 3300 children to receive both education and psychosocial support. They also campaign to promote a shared national Syrian identity, as a counterweight to sectarian worldviews. See <http://en.keshmalek.org>.

- **Basmeh & Zeitooneh:**

Basmeh & Zeitooneh has offered support to more than 18.000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Turkey. The organization established community centers where Syrian refugees can meet. In these centers they offer humanitarian aid, medical assistance, vocational training and education. Basmeh & Zeitooneh also offers general job assistance and provides peace education for children. See <http://www.basmeh-zeitooneh.org>.

### 3. Join the #withSyria campaign



- **Twitter:** tweet your picture together with the following message: *5 years of lives being torn apart. I'm joining hands #withSyria to keep hope alive. Join me #withSyria.com*

- **Facebook:** share your picture with the following message: *5 years on. 5 years of lives being lost and torn apart in Syria. There are no more excuses. I am joining hands #withSyria to keep hope alive. Join me at withsyria.com.*

**Instagram:** share your picture with the following message:

*5 years on. 5 years of lives being lost and torn apart in Syria. There are no more excuses. I am joining hands #withSyria to keep hope alive. Join me by sharing your picture joining hands and tag #withSyria.*

### 4. Help Syrian refugees in Belgium

**Do you want to do something more concrete? (Syrian) refugees in Belgium can use your help as well.**

In the coming months thousands of recognised refugees will have to go look for a studio or apartment. This is not an easy task: there are few properties available for rent, there is a lack of social houses, landlords refuse to let through OCMW or CPAS, or they simply distrust people with foreign names. Most refugees, on the other hand, do not speak English, Dutch or French, and are not aware of the Belgian warrant system. You can help by talking to people you know (family, neighbours, friends, your own landlord) and by trying to convince them to rent their properties to refugees. As soon as they are convinced, you can send their contact details to an organisation in your neighbourhood (CAW Antwerpen, Plateforme Citoyenne de Soutien aux Réfugiés, Werkgroep Vluchtelingen in Gent,...) or to a national organisation (Vluchtelingenwerk, Caritas International).

A few helpful mail addresses:

- [adviescentrum.migratie@gmail.com](mailto:adviescentrum.migratie@gmail.com) (Antwerpen)
- [strobbedorien@gmail.com](mailto:strobbedorien@gmail.com) (Bruxelles)
- [onthaal.gent@cawoostvlaanderen.be](mailto:onthaal.gent@cawoostvlaanderen.be) (Gent)
- [www.vluchtelingenwerk.be](http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.be) (‘Wat we doen’, ‘huisvesting’ and ‘woningplatform’)
- [nils@orbitvzw.be](mailto:nils@orbitvzw.be) (they know networks near you)