

Mülteci
Hakları
Merkezi

Refugee
Rights
Turkey

The Right to Education
for Syrian Refugees and Other Persons
under “Temporary Protection”

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

REFUGEE RIGHTS TURKEY: FREE LEGAL COUNSELLING & ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES

Suriye’den Gelen Sığınmacılar ve
“Eğitim Hakkı”

SORULAR & YANITLAR

İNGİLİZCE

I am a refugee from Syria. Do my children and I have the right to education in Turkey?

Turkey provides temporary protection to Syrian nationals, stateless persons and refugees arriving from Syria. In order to access education it is critical to complete your temporary protection registration. Upon completing registration, you will be given a Temporary Protection Identity Card. This document is free of charge and includes your Foreigners' ID Number starting with 99. This number ensures your access to primary, secondary and higher education as well as to Turkish language courses and vocational training.

I have a primary school-aged child. How can I send him/her to school?

As per the current legislation, regardless of their status and gender, all children have the right to compulsory education in Turkey. Thus, your child is entitled to access education either in public schools or at temporary education centers. Compulsory and free education in Turkey is 12 years and comprises three stages: 4 years of primary school (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade), 4 years of lower-secondary school (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade), and 4 years of upper-secondary school (9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade). The language of instruction in public schools is Turkish.

Temporary education centers, on the other hand, are primary and secondary education centers run by either non-governmental actors or Syrian refugees outside the camps or directly by public authorities or international organizations within the camps. The language of instruction in these centers is usually Arabic and these centers largely offer a revised version of the Syrian curriculum. Additionally, temporary education centers operating under the supervision of the Turkish Ministry of Education also have Turkish language teachers.

How can I enroll my child in public school for compulsory education? Do I have to pay? Will my child receive a diploma?

You may enroll your child in public schools in your place of residence with your Temporary Protection Identity Card or with your Foreigners' ID or if available, with your residence permit. Enrollment procedures are determined by the Provincial Education Commission at the province; however, in general it is important to present documents demonstrating previous school attendance, certificates or diplomas. If you do not have these documents, the Provincial Education Commission- and in some provinces, the District Education Commission- will carry out a grade placement test-either oral or written, or in some cases both. Following this assessment, your child will be placed in the appropriate grade level.

A critical reminder is that both you and your child need to complete temporary protection registration. However, if you have not completed your temporary protection registration yet or if you do not possess a Temporary Protection Identity Card, you may still enroll your child in public schools. In the absence of these documents, your child shall be enrolled, albeit with guest student status. It is possible to change this guest status upon obtaining your Temporary Protection Identity Card.

Education is free in all public schools. The language of instruction in public schools is Turkish and classes are carried out in accordance with Turkish curriculum. In some temporary education centers, however, tuition fees may be required.

Students who have successfully fulfilled requirements in public schools are entitled to receive a diploma. Students in temporary education centers operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Education are entitled to receive a certificate upon fulfilling requirements.

What is the legal status of Syrian schools in Turkey?

The education system in Turkey is under the supervision and control of the Ministry of Education. Regardless of their chosen titles, temporary education centers or schools which operate without concluding a protocol with the Ministry of Education do not have a legal status. As such, these informal schools cannot issue a legally valid certificate and risk closure if they are identified by the Ministry of Education. Thus, before enrolling your child in a school, it is critical to learn the legal status of the school and make your decision accordingly.

I want to go to a high school. What should I do?

Children who have successfully completed 8 years of compulsory education are entitled to enroll in high schools. It is therefore important to present documents demonstrating previous school attendance or certificates or diplomas. If you do not have any of these documents, you must approach the Provincial Education Commission for grade placement test.

However, if you have completed your high school in temporary education centers or elsewhere, you are required to take High School Proficiency and Equivalency Examination for International Students (YÖLYDS). This examination is held once in a year and sessions are convened in certain provinces.

In order to apply to this examination, you are required to complete your temporary protection registration and have an up-to-date information on the Foreign Students Information Operation System (YÖBİS). Those who are enrolled in public schools or in temporary education centers which have an active protocol with the Ministry of Education are registered in YÖBİS.

If you have completed your compulsory education elsewhere, you must register with one of temporary education centers operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and obtain a student certificate through YÖBİS.

YÖLYDS applications should be submitted to school administrators. In order to avoid any problem at this stage, you must present a hardcopy of the student certificate obtained through YÖBİS, the YÖLDYS application form and your temporary protection identity card. Please refer to <https://yobis.meb.gov.tr/> to follow up-to-date information & announcements for the examination.

Can persons under temporary protection enroll in universities in Turkey?

The completion of primary and secondary education in Turkey is the first requirement for having a higher education. Students who have completed their education in public schools in Turkey are considered to fulfill this criterion. However, those who are graduated from institutions in Syria or who completed their education in temporary education centers are required to take the High School Proficiency and Equivalency Examination for International Students (YÖLYDS). Please refer to previous section for detailed information on this exam.

All foreigners who would like to enroll in universities in Turkey should take the Examination for Foreign Students (YÖS) organized by universities and pass the exam. You may also be required to pay an application fee to take this exam. In addition, universities have the discretion to request additional documents attesting previous education.

We therefore recommend that you consult with the Foreign Student Departments or websites of universities to obtain detailed information on requirements and announcements.

I want to learn Turkish. Who can help me?

All children, young persons and adults who wish to learn Turkish may approach Public Education Centers (Halk Eđitim Merkezi). These centers provide free courses and you are required to present your Temporary Protection Identity Card to register with these centers.

In addition, several civil society organizations also run free Turkish language courses. You may call us to inquire about the availability of free Turkish language courses in your province.

I want to receive vocational training. What are my opportunities?

You may approach Public Education Centers to receive vocational training. These courses are free. However, it must be noted that each Public Education Center has the right to determine which course it shall offer in a year and may open new courses on demand. We therefore recommend that you approach your local Public Education Center to inquire about the available courses. Please also note that you shall be required to present your Temporary Protection Identity Card to benefit from these courses.

There are also other civil society organizations which provide free skills, hobby and vocational courses. You may call us to inquire about the availability of such courses in your province.

Refugee Rights Turkey- Contact:

Wherever you may be in Turkey, you are welcome to visit our office or get in touch with us by telephone, fax or email all weekdays from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

 Dr. Refik Saydam Cad. Dilber Apt. No: 39 Daire: 11 Kat: 4
Şiřhane, Beyođlu - İstanbul

 +90 212 292 48 30

 +90 212 292 48 33

 info@mhd.org.tr

Mülteci Hakları Merkezi

Refugee Rights Turkey

📍 Dr. Refik Saydam Cad. Dilber Apt. No: 39 Daire: 11 Kat: 4
Şişhane, Beyoğlu - İstanbul

☎ +90 212 292 48 30

📠 +90 212 292 48 33

✉ info@mhd.org.tr

www.mhd.org.tr

This resource is produced by **Refugee Rights Turkey** within the context of a project run in cooperation with U.S.A. based **Refugee Solidarity Network** and **Dutch Council for Refugees** and supported by **US Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.**



Refugee Rights Turkey



Refugee Solidarity Network



US Department of State
Bureau of Population,
Refugees, and Migration