



A Challenge to the World: The Refugee Crisis

by Abdulaziz Alhawas, Saudi Arabia

How do you think your life would be after losing everything important to you? Migration to a country other than the one in which you lived or were born in is a necessary process for the survival of those who are in need of immigration. Moreover, under special circumstances, migrants can be called refugees. The question is this: What is the reaction of the receiving country to the refugees? What are the feelings of the citizens in that country? But how about the refugees themselves? How about their feelings, families, and their situations, too? This refugee crisis can be fraught with danger and fear. Some refugees may fall victim to human trafficking or other forms of exploitation. Not only that, but some of them may face arrest by the authorities of the new country upon arrival. Also, do not forget the amount of hatred, discrimination, and racism that will face them in the new country. The refugee crisis has existed since ancient times and still exists today, whether caused by war, religious persecution, or even hunger.

The first cause of a refugee crisis is war. What is worse than war to destroy towns and houses and separate and disperse families? During war time, people will do whatever it takes to make sure of their family's safety and to survive. To do that, they will have to suffer through the worst scenarios and handle really bad situations just to reach another country in search of any hope of survival and safety—the simplest things a person can ask for. For instance, Syria and what happened or is happening to them is a disaster. Their country was destroyed, they cannot live there peacefully anymore, and that caused them to run away and suffer humiliation in order to find a place that they can call home, even if temporarily. War is one of the worst scenarios could happen to a country and its people.

Furthermore, another cause of a refugee crisis is religious persecution, which is not only a crime but also one of the most despicable and worst forms of persecution. How do we control or impose on people what or how they should

worship? Who are we to do that? So how can a group of people comprehend being chased and killed for their religion? No one has any control over how people should worship as long as they do not violate anyone's rights. The issue of religious persecution has existed for hundreds of years, even though the monotheistic religions have ensured the freedom of worship and forbidden others to force people to worship in a certain religion. For example, look at what is happening to the minority of Muslims in Myanmar, also known as Burma. They are being persecuted and killed. Worst of all, they are being burned alive—men, women, and children, just because they are Muslims. As a result, they are migrating in groups to Bangladesh, which is refusing to receive any more of them. Religion is a matter of choice, not compulsion, and we all have minds through which we know right from wrong.

Besides these causes, another of the causes of a refugee crisis is hunger. Some countries suffer from a lack of water and agricultural resources due to economic crisis or internal conflicts, which increases the hunger crisis and leads people to flee their villages and turn to neighboring countries in search of food. There is nothing worse than the scene of a mother watching her children die of hunger and thirst, and she has nothing to help them with. In countries like Congo and Niger, lack of water resources, pastures, and armed confrontations lead people to leave their villages and foundations of their life. Moreover, climate change is also causing additional crises, all of which occur in countries that are too weak to cope with such crises.

In conclusion, as I mentioned above, war, religious persecution, and hunger are three of the many causes of a refugee crisis. As long as people are suffering from war, diseases, lack of resources, climate change, or any other disaster, the refugee crisis will still exist. As long as people continue in their greed and wrong practices and continue thinking of themselves only, these crises will continue happening. The question is how should we deal with a refugee crisis? And how should we treat the refugees?



Sam and the Queen of the Celestial Kingdom by Nisreen Aljabri, Saudi Arabia



Once upon a time, it was a dark and stormy night, and all the people were sleeping.

You could just listen to the clocks tick-tick-ticking, wind chimes in front of the doors, bugs chirping, and children whispering under their blankets. Except one boy—he was in another world, his special world. He was reading his favorite story when he heard tapping at the window.

"Maybe just a squirrel playing around my window? Or tree branches?" he said fearfully. "Should I open the window or not?" He opened the window and looked out hesitantly.

"Who is there?" he asked. No answer. He asked again, but still no answer. "Oh, just as I thought—I'll close the window."

As he was closing the window, he heard someone say, "No, no! I'm here! Look down, please!" He looked under his feet; he was taken aback.

"Uhh, who are you? And why are you so small?" he asked.

"I will tell you everything because I need you. It's only you who can help me get back to my normal size, but let's get inside because it is so cold here."

"Sure, come in," he said.

"Wow, it's so warm, your room," she said, and then she started sneezing.

"Hmm, I am so sorry! It is hard for me to find a blanket that fits you. I will give you one from my sister's doll—that's a perfect idea."

"Thank you," she said.

"You're welcome. By the way my name is—"

"I know who you are. You are Sam, the great reader of all the children who lives in his books."

"Who are you, really?" he asked.

"I am Lana, Queen of the Celestial Kingdom."

"Wait a minute—what you just said: The Celestial Kingdom! This is a kingdom we can find only in books. But it's in another world, not on our planet."

Lana replied, "Let me tell you my story. As I said, I'm the Queen of the Celestial Kingdom, and you're right because we live in another world that you can find only between the pages of a book. I came to you for this reason: No one can see us except people who believe we exist. Readers believe what they read. When you read, you believe we are real."

Sam asked, "How did you know I love reading?"

Lana said, "Because people who love reading shine like stars in our world, and you shine brighter than the others. So, I was wondering who that person is who shines so strongly. I came here to tell you that you should keep reading because from books, people gain so much knowledge. It makes a person unique—it takes you to a colorful world filled with discovery that you have never thought of before. Reading protects your soul and mind from the impurities of life and gives you motivation. Reading every day saves our world with your endless bright shining."

After lightning flashed in the sky, Sam could not see anything. . . and the Queen of the Celestial Kingdom disappeared.

Speak Gently with Young Children...by Hamad Alsenaidi, Saudi Arabia

I live in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I have two younger brothers. The first is Khaled, and the second brother is Mohammed. Khaled is busy and curious all the time, and one time he made me very angry. This is what happened.

When I was 19 years old, I traveled to Aljowf with my brother Mohammed. We had a great time. Later, we went home, and I went into my room. Khaled was eating chocolates, and some chocolate had melted on the floor. He was playing with my PlayStation too. I yelled at him. After that, he started crying because he did not like me to yell at him. He ran to my mother. Later, I found him crying in his room, and I felt bad because he was only 10. Finally, we agreed that he will not enter my room if I am not there.

I learned something from this experience. I need to speak gently with young children. This will give us a lovely relationship. We can learn a lot from our life experiences.

Even a Younger Brother Can Be an Example...by Abdulmahsen AISHiba, Saudi Arabia

Usually people look at their older brother as an example, but I look to my youngest brother, Moath. He is a symbol of good things for many reasons. First, he has a great personality. For instance, he treats everyone in a kind way, even if they disagree with him. In addition, he says beautiful words when he speaks to them. Next, his appearance is amazing. He has long curly hair, and that suits his nice face. Also, he has big black eyes. In brief, my youngest brother Moath's personality and appearance are great, so he is a symbol of goodness, and he is an example for me.

A Challenge: The Bad Person...by Abdullah Aboshumi, Saudi Arabia

I do not like Ali. He is 25 years old. Ali has a long face, and he is heavy. He has short hair and big eyes. The reasons why I do not love him are that he is unhappy, impolite, and a liar. If he did not lie, and he was not impolite, I would love him. However, I spoke with him about that, and he still lies. When he sits with his friends, he always lies. If he was a good person, I would sit with him, but he is not.

Learning from Our Experiences

A Soccer Match and a Lesson Learned...by Jayner Giuliano Barrios, Venezuela

When I was 14 years old, I was a student in high school. I was studying in Caracas, but I often visited my grandparents who lived in Barranquilla, Colombia. When I visited them, I always liked to play soccer with my friends. Usually it was fun, but once I did something wrong. This is what happened.

One day, I woke up so excited because I had a final soccer match, but at the same time, I felt a little sad because my grandparents couldn't come and watch me play. The match started, and I was playing well. Suddenly, I was running for the ball, and I fell down and hurt my ankle. It was bad, so someone called my grandparents. Immediately my grandparents came, and they ran towards me. They understood what happened, and they were very concerned. Pretty soon, we went to the hospital. Finally, I returned to my home and rested because I couldn't walk very well for about two weeks.

I learned something from this experience. I learned to be more careful when I dribble the ball, so I don't injure myself again. My passion is playing soccer, and I want to play the sport for the rest of my life. We can learn a lot from our life experiences.

Planning Your Trip Makes a Difference...by Abdulelah Alluhaydan, Saudi Arabia

When I was 20 years old, I lived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I often liked to go to the Altham desert because it was relaxing and calm. Sometimes I went with my family, but usually, I went with my friends because they liked to go there too. It is very far from my home, but it is very nice. If you want to go to this area you have to be prepared because sometimes you may have a problem, like I did.

One day, I went to the desert with my friend, Khaled. While we were driving, it started to rain. When that happened, I told him I wanted to go back home, but he told me you can't do that because we just arrived. I told him that it was very dangerous, but I said OK. Next, we arrived at the desert in the rain. Later, we decided to go home, but we could not because the car was stuck in the mud. Then I called some friends, but they could not come because they don't have a good car. Finally, I called my family, and they came.

I learned you have to be careful and don't go anywhere without a good plan. You have to have good equipment too. You should follow your feelings, and not risk your life for other people. Something dangerous might happen, and maybe you will not be able to save yourself. We should learn from our difficult life experiences.

A Restaurant with a Heart...by Tawfiq AlJabri, Saudi Arabia

My favorite restaurant is Albek. I love Albek because it is the best restaurant in Saudi Arabia. About the appearance, the restaurant looks normal. There are tables and chairs. Also it has a special sign, and they use the color red on the sign. Albek has two floors. The first one is for ordering food, and the second floor is for eating. The food is very delicious, but the menu only has a few dishes. Finally, the price is cheap. I think the cost is low because they help poor people. They have another special way to help poor people. If someone spends \$10 on one dish, Albek gives \$1 to the poor. I will be very happy if there is an Albek in Denver.

Lost Bags in the Airport...by Mansour Alotaibi, Saudi Arabia

When I was growing up, I visited many countries. Sometimes I traveled with my family and sometimes with my friends. When I was 22 years old, I traveled to Dubai with my friends. It was a great experience, but something bad happened to me.

That day, I lost my bags in the airport, and I tried to search for them, but I didn't find them. Next, I went to the airport staff, and I asked about my bags. They told me to go back to the baggage claim. They thought I might find them there, or I could look at the videos, and maybe I would find them. Finally, the airport staff found them. Another passenger had taken it by mistake.

I learned something from this experience. I should write my name on my bags, so I will not lose them in the future. We can learn a lot from life experiences.

Good Advice Can Change Your Life...by Abdulrahman Alangemci, Saudi Arabia

When I was nine years old, I was a student in third grade. My family and I were staying at my grandfather's house. Therefore, during the vacation, all of my cousins came to the house to meet each other. All of my cousins had money, but I didn't have any money. My cousins planned to go shopping. I was too shy to tell them I didn't have any money, so I thought of a stupid idea. This is what happened.

I decided to steal some money from my father. In the evening, I went to his bedroom to steal some money from his wallet, but his wallet was in his pocket. His clothes were in the closet, so I searched through his clothes. Suddenly, my father woke up, and he looked at me. I hate to remember this moment because he stared at me accusingly. Then, he asked me, "What are you doing here?" I couldn't answer him because I was confused and afraid. Then I turned around and ran out of his room and straight to my mother to save me. My mother told me to go out of the house to my cousin and come back after a couple of hours. Later, I came back home, and I met my father in the living room. Finally, he told me, "If you need anything, just ask me. Don't follow a stealing path because maybe it will become a habit. When stealing is a habit you can never stop."

I learned several things from this experience. First, stealing is a very bad idea and a very stupid thing to do. I also learned that parents will always give you what you need. I also learned when you listen to your parents' advice, you will have a good life. I have a great life now because I always listen to my parents' advice. We can learn a lot from our life experiences.

Keeping Safe in a New Country...by Ahmed Haddad, Iraq

When I was 25 years old, I visited Istanbul, Turkey, on business with my partner. There is a company in Turkey that works with us, and they invited us to meet them in Istanbul, at their main office. While we were visiting Istanbul, we stayed in a very nice hotel. It has nice views, and it is close to Taksim Square. For most of the trip we didn't have any trouble, but one day we did something that we regret. This is what happened.

That day, after we finished work at midnight, my partner and I left the hotel and walked to Taksim square. Suddenly, we saw a big club, with exciting lighting and very loud music. Next, we went inside the club, and the security guard came up to us. They sat us at a very big table, and they asked the waiter for drinks and food without asking us. After that, the waiter brought us the bill, and it was \$1000. We did not accept that, but in one minute five people came and were ready to fight with us. Finally, we paid the money and we took a taxi back to the hotel.

We learned several things from this experience. First, we should think about the dangers of going to a club at midnight in a strange city. That was probably a very stupid thing to do! We also learned we must communicate with our hotel receptionist or with the people from our host company about recommendations for good places we could go. These ideas can keep us safe. We can learn a lot from our life experiences.

Beautiful Thoughts in Just a Few Words

by Level 5 Students

Coffee, roasted beans
making me feel life again
when the cold's insane.—Abdulaziz Alhawaw, Saudi Arabia

Through the forest
the little bird sings alone,
gazes the sunset.—Jorge Ismael Aguilar Contreras, Mexico

Sunshine falling down,
Tennis balls all that you see—
energetic boys. —Abdulmalik Albu Tuwaybah, Saudi Arabia, and Xuelian Feng, China

Colorado
The sky is high blue,
The Rocky Mountains boast gold.
I love winter's white.—Insun Park, South Korea

Moon looks like your face.
Women are very jealous—
you are an angel.—Osama Alkhamis, Saudi Arabia

So deep in my heart
troubled feelings collide and
mysterious end.—Salhah Asiri, Saudi Arabia

A yellow butter-
fly transmitted between twigs
suddenly flew off. —Salhah Asiri, Saudi Arabia

Summer's exploded—
boys are chasing the hot dream,
the ball gives them hopes.— Hussain Alnaser, Saudi Arabia

The sun is freezing—
people are hiding inside,
animals have to rest.—Ahmed Selham, Saudi Arabia

Missing, Winter
Long nights stand,
morning sun goes behind clouds—
broken, sleepless hearts.— Abdulrahman Aljadani, Saudi Arabia

Enjoying the Journey, Summer Day
Sunny warm weather,
mountains huge, highway road,
mark sing and trees dance. .— Abdulrahman Aljadani, Saudi Arabia

Meeting a Dear Friend, Dark Night
Long time missing Oday
in cold night—entering airport,
He turns night shiny. .— Abdulrahman Aljadani, Saudi Arabia

Early morning spring:
Sun laying rays on the earth,
Birds sing at the sky.— Nisreen Aljabri, Saudi Arabia

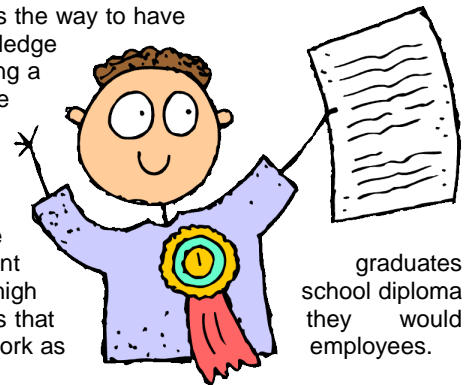
Dewdrops on flowers—
Fragrance of flowers spread a-
round. Bees move between.— Nisreen Aljabri, Saudi Arabia

Is College Necessary?

by Abdulrahman Aljadani, Saudi Arabia

Education is the most common way to build the future for most youth. It is the way to have a nice job with a satisfactory income. Education is the main source for having knowledge that could change the world. However, education is not the only approach for having a desirable life as school is not the one and only gate to a successful future. There are three main causes for why students drop out of school: students will have more opportunities for their future, they will have the time to get experience, and they can save money.

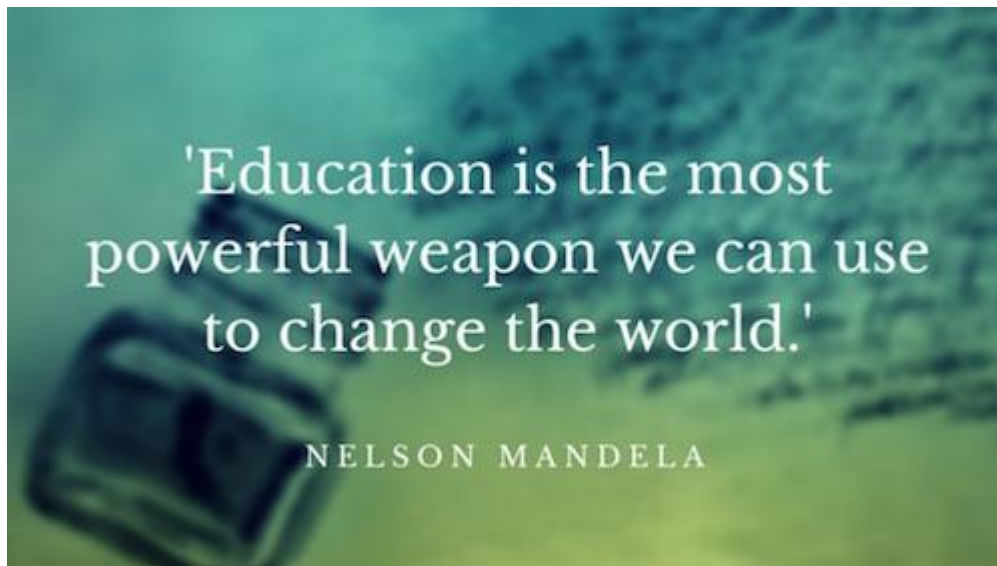
Dropping out of school is not the worst thing students do in their lives. In fact, more opportunities might be created based on this decision. For example, if the student from college, he will have a job related to his major while the student with the high that did not complete college will have more jobs to work in. Another opportunity is that work in a different field, such as technology or business when their peers usually work as



Having time to achieve goals is as important as resources. When students drop out of school or college and work immediately, they will have at least four years of experience in a certain field or more than one. This means that when both of the students—the one with the college degree and the one who worked throughout the years—become 24 years old, there will be one person with a degree and the other with experience, and both of them could have the same odds to move on in their careers. Experience is as important as education. Both of them are needed in the job market.

Investing money is a great way to build an enriching life. It is one of the old ways to build a fortune. Saving college money is a means to reach the goal of being rich. Also it is a reason to start a life without owing banks money. Students can use this money to build their own business. They can use it to develop skills, such as taking courses in programming or any subject that is related to their jobs. Saving college money to spend it on something else is a great idea for investment in the future.

Opponents say that the chances of a student who finishes college are better than the one who does not, based on their level of knowledge. That could be true, but if the knowledge was not integrated with experience, it would be worthless, especially if the college student did not show great potential. Finally, there are three main reasons for students to drop out of college: they will have more chances for the future, they will have more experience, and they will save their college money.



A Day at St. Mary's Glacier: Sun, Snow Sprinkles, and a Shivery Lake



Spring Views is published every eight weeks to showcase the writing of students from beginning to advanced levels at Spring International Language Center, Littleton, Colorado. Editor: Connie Shoemaker