



A Voice for The Voiceless

Betsabe Reyna, Pathways to Peace
New Jersey

☀ Call to Action

The refugee crisis is real, and it is worldwide. Learn how you can help by visiting Pathways to Peace: pathwaystopeace.org

☀ Values

- Dedication
- Commitment
- Creativity
- Communication
- Environmentalism

☀ Lessons Learned

Real change starts when we decide to listen—really listen—to each other's stories.

The wisdom of your elders is one of the greatest treasures you can have.

Embrace it!

Every human being wants the same thing: to feel safe, and to live in peace.

Make a habit of asking yourself how you can help those seeking these basic human needs.

At the age of 16, Betsabe Reyna was offered the opportunity to travel to Mexico with a few other kids her age.

During this trip, she discovered her role as a changemaker. From then on, she has found ways to immerse herself in other cultures and work with people from diverse backgrounds. During the Syrian refugee crisis, Betsabe worked on the frontlines at a refugee camp in Turkey near the Syrian border. Regardless of their religion and culture, Betsabe saw the people staying in the refugee camp as her brothers and sisters. Today, she is a delegate for the United Nations Program, Pathways to Peace, where she is carrying out the legacy of Avon Mattison, who inspires her to continue her work, helping to design peaceful solutions in chaotic circumstances. By preserving Avon's legacy, Betsabe is continuing to fight for vulnerable populations across the world.

☀ Language Arts

Conduct a [Round Table discussion](#)¹ with your class and talk about the refugee crisis in Europe. What prompted this crisis? How has climate change contributed to it? Which countries are the most supportive of refugees? What are they doing to help them? What kinds of policies are global leaders recommending?

Research and write a paper about the refugee situation in Greece: where do the refugees come from, and why did they leave their homeland? What is being done to help them begin new lives? How can people get involved to help better their conditions?

Write a compare and contrast essay in which you juxtapose the refugee crisis in Europe and the humanitarian crisis at the Mexican border in the U.S. How are they similar? How are they different?

STEM Activities

In this [activity from TropICSU²](#), students use a climate migration tool to learn about regions and communities affected by climate change. They explore the science behind erosion, drought, and desertification, and use what they learn to explain how climate change has contributed to the mass migration of Syrian refugees to Turkey. <http://storymaps.esri.com/stories/2017/climate-migrants/index.html³>

Given the average number of Syrian refugees who have entered Turkey each month for the past five years, how many refugees can Turkey expect to be supporting five years from now?

Given the Syrian community's disproportionately young population, the birth rate is expected to increase. Meanwhile, Turkey's fertility rate has been falling for years, and is now at the replacement-level rate of 2.1 children per woman. Assuming a constant rate of growth, estimate how many years it will take for the Syrian population to become the majority in Turkey. [This resource⁴](#), with information on the population of Turkey, will help you.

Sustainability Innovations

Betsabe gained experience and perspective when she traveled overseas, but action is the only way to help people in need. Learn about [YerYuzu Doktalari⁵](#). How are they assisting in the crises in Gaza, Yemen, Syria, and Myanmar? Why is it important for the U.S. to be engaged in these global issues?

Avon Mattison⁶, the cofounder of Pathways to Peace⁷, has served as a role model for Betsabe and others who have identified collaboration between countries as the way to solve some of our sustainability issues. Learn about Pathways to Peace and the eight pathways they have identified to engage people as peacebuilders. Which of the pathways do you think needs the most improvement in order to accomplish the goal of peace?

Review the impact of the International Rescue Committee⁸ on the Syrian crisis. How has a decade of war affected the lives of children in Syria? Read this [article⁹](#), featuring the perspective of 10-year-olds who have known nothing but war.

Sustainability Career Pathways

Refugee Aid Worker. Working with refugees, or in international aid operations can be a difficult but rewarding career. Knowing other languages is essential, as is the ability to live in very basic conditions. Here is a set of [tips for becoming a refugee aid worker¹⁰](#). You can also explore job opportunities with groups like [International Rescue Committee](#), or closer to home, as a [refugee case manager¹¹](#) in whatever city you live in.

Human Rights Advocate. There are many ways to fight for human rights. Within this sector, there are educators, lawyers, social media experts, programmers, campaigners, and fundraisers. Here is an [introduction to all the ways you can help advance human rights¹²](#), and a [list of five exciting human rights careers to explore¹³](#).

Medical Personnel. One way to help refugees is as a doctor, psychologist, or nurse. Needs are great in refugee camps and conflict zones. Learn more on how you can help through organizations like [Doctors without Borders¹⁴](#).

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- 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvhPDg6EH7U&t=134s>
 - 2 https://tropicsu.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/LessonPlan_SocialSciences_ClimateRefugees_PDF.pdf
 - 3 <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/af3858d32f84488f92dfacef068ff52>
 - 4 <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/reports/2019/03/13/467183/turkeys-refugee-dilemma/>
 - 5 <https://www.yyd.org/en/who-we-are>
 - 6 <https://pathwaystopeace.org/team/avon-mattison/>
 - 7 <https://pathwaystopeace.org/>
 - 8 <https://www.rescue.org/country/syria>
 - 9 <https://www.rescue.org/article/syrian-10-year-olds-whove-known-nothing-war>
 - 10 <https://www.humanrightscareers.com/magazine/basic-tips-for-becoming-a-humanitarian-aid-worker/>
 - 11 <https://www.indeed.com/q-Refugee-case-manager-jobs.html>
 - 12 <https://www.humanrightscareers.com/careers/>
 - 13 <https://www.humanrightscareers.com/magazine/5-exciting-human-rights-career-paths/>
 - 14 <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/careers>

