



INFORMATION NOTE FOR REFUGEES

This is our refugee information note upon refugee movement towards borders that started on February 28th, 2020.

- The Republic of Turkey has not made an official declaration concerning inexistence of controls on western borders of the country and that border crosses are free.

- In case you exit Turkey, you run the risk of losing your identity and your connected rights irrevocably.

- Turkey's western neighbors Greece and Bulgaria and European Union members. Thus Turkey-Greece and Turkey-Bulgaria borders are strongly protected not just by forces of these countries but also by European Union Border Control Unit from the land and the sea.

- As a consequence security situation and corresponding risks before the current situation continue to exist on these borders. Among those risks there are risks for life such as:

- Losing your life while trying to cross the Aegean Sea or Meriç River,
- Getting shot by security forces while trying to cross border,
- Freezing in cold weather.

- In addition, even if you are able to cross the border the "Repatriation Agreement" signed between Turkey and European Union are still in force and will continue to stay in force as long as there are no official declarations to the contrary. According to this agreement, in case you are caught by security forces on the other side of the border it is legally possible to be repatriated to Turkey. Because your identity in Turkey would be cancelled following this process, you run the risk of getting repatriated from Turkey to your country.

- Even if you would not be repatriated to Turkey, you have the risk of staying under custody in very difficult conditions until you get repatriated to Turkey.

Support to Life is a humanitarian aid organization that aims to facilitate access of communities affected by disasters to basic rights and needs. We have been conducting emergency response, refugee support, child protection in seasonal agriculture, and capacity development of civil society efforts according to humanity, neutrality, independence, accountability principles since 2005 and supporting life. www.hayatadestek.org