

INFORMATION
AND ADVICE
ABOUT TRAVELLING
TO SYRIA



POLICE
SCOTLAND

Keeping people safe

**The Foreign and
Commonwealth Office
advise against
all travel to Syria.**



Ensure that you are working with an international charity officially registered with OSCR or the Charity Commission. Where people have attended with smaller charities unknown in Turkey they have been denied access or significantly delayed. Charities unknown to the Syrian opposition could also be considered as hostile.

POLICE SCOTLAND
Tel: 101
Email: preventdeliveryunit@scotland.pnn.police.uk

**IF YOU SUSPECT
IT REPORT IT**
CALL 0800 789 321
CONFIDENTIAL
ANTI-TERRORIST HOTLINE

If you require the Syrian Information & Advice passport in another format please contact the **Prevent Delivery Unit** on 01236 818 641 to discuss requirements

The UK Government is at the **forefront of international efforts** to alleviate human suffering in Syria and the region. The UK Government's total funding is now **half a billion pounds, the largest total sum the UK has ever committed** to a single crisis. This money is providing food, water, shelter and medicines for hundreds of thousands of Syrians through Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and agencies working in all areas of Syria (*including opposition-held and contested areas*).

Ordinary Syrians say **foreigners are not welcome** in Syria. UK nationals who travel to Syria to fight the regime play into Assad's claim that his regime is fighting foreign terrorists and unintentionally help Assad.

The whole of Syria is **unsafe**. A number of UK nationals have been killed or injured fighting in Syria and there is a high threat from terrorism. Terrorist groups target UK nationals.

Phone, internet, electricity and road networks are regularly disrupted, and people face difficulties accessing cash.

There is very limited medical support in the country and those travelling to Syria **put ordinary Syrians at risk by being a drain on medical resources**.

We have serious concerns that anyone gaining access into Syria, whether it be for humanitarian reasons or a desire to support the Syrian opposition, may be targeted for recruitment by extremist groups. This could have significant repercussions for the safety of the individual concerned.

UK nationals who travel there will **attract the attention of the UK authorities**, because we know a number of extremist groups are operating in Syria.

The Syrian Government has issued a law stating that individuals who **enter Syrian territories illegally** will be punished by a **prison sentence of 5 to 10 years**.

It is our advice that people do not travel to Syria due to serious safety concerns. However, we recognise that some people will feel compelled to travel to the region to deliver aid as part of aid convoys. As such, relevant information, which has been gathered from people that have participated in previous aid convoys, can be accessed from the website below. This information is endorsed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/syria

Our intention is to ensure that Scottish residents are fully informed about the situation and are therefore able to make safe decisions and share this advice with members of their community.

The Office of the Scottish Charity Register (OSCR) and the The Charity Commission **strongly advise against transporting money in person.**

The quickest, most effective way you can help the Syrian people is by contributing to a registered charity in the UK. A number of well established UK charities with experience providing humanitarian assistance in high risk, insecure and dangerous environments are running campaigns to alleviate the crisis in Syria. Check both the OSCR and the Charity Commission website to ensure your chosen charity is registered with them. If a charity isn't registered, you cannot be sure your donations will be used as you intend.

You can check this at
www.charitycommission.gov.uk
www.oscr.org.uk

If you have any concerns about someone who's planning to travel to Syria, you should contact your local police or dial 101 (non-emergency). They'll talk with you in confidence.

To contact the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline dial 0800 789 321.