



STATEMENT ON EARTHQUAKES IN SYRIA, TÜRKIYE

February 10, 2023

We, the York Federation of Students, would like to extend our support and sympathy to the people of Syria and Türkiye, as well as all countries affected, both here and abroad. In the late hours of February 5th until the early hours of February 5, 2023, a series of powerful earthquakes hit Syria and Türkiye. Shortly after, several other earthquakes and over 60 aftershocks ensued. These earthquakes have made it more difficult for rescue efforts to occur and have reduced the amount of shelter available. While it is clear that many lives have been lost, that there are many injured and displaced, and the level of destruction is extensive, the true toll will not be known until the aftershocks stop.

Across Turkey and Syria, thousands of structures have fallen including dozens of important cultural monuments, places of worship, and thousands of homes. More than 20,451 lives have been lost, with more expected over the next coming weeks. It is important to remember that these are not just numbers, but human beings, family members, and friends. As of Tuesday afternoon, search and rescue personnel and community members in Turkey and Syria have saved approximately 10,000 individuals. As survivors and rescue teams continue to search for persons trapped under buildings, it is anticipated that these figures will increase.

Additionally, even in the midst of a devastating earthquake affecting approximately 10.9 million people, the United States and European Union refuse to lift the sanctions that prevent Syrians from receiving direct aid from many countries, organizations and charities. Leaving millions of people without shelter, warm clothing, and food in the middle of the winter. As of yet, only one border crossing in Syria is open to humanitarian aid.

The YFS stands with the Syrian and Turkish community through these devastating times, and commits to donating to [Islamic Relief Canada](#) and encourages members who are able to donate to do the same. Below we have attached a list of verified places to donate both locally and internationally, that aid both Syrian and Turkish communities affected by the earthquake.

We recognize these times have been difficult for students, if anyone is in need of counseling or mental health support, the YFS Wellness Centre is open 10am to 5pm Monday - Thursday and



York Counseling Services is available online at [keep.meSAFE](https://www.keep.meSAFE.ca) 24/7 or by walk in 9am to 3pm Monday - Friday.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the YFS President, Adaeze Mbalaja at president@yfs.ca.

Here is a list of donation and education resources:

- [Care](#)
- [Turkeysyriaearthquake](#)
- [Consulate General In-Kind Clothing Donation Request](#)