

## 1937 the Basque Children, 2015 the Syrian Children



It is naïve to think we can learn from history:

**1937 Basque** children were being evacuated from a devastating civil war: a reluctant British government bowed to public pressure and accepted 4,000;

**2015 Syrians** are being evacuated from a devastating civil war: a reluctant British government has bowed to public pressure and will accept 20,000.

There are several recent articles that talk about the British reception given to large groups of refugees – see links below. All mention the Basque children. We are pleased to see that their history is no longer a forgotten footnote.

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/jamieross/times-from-history-the-uk-welcomed-refugees#.ttwA2yZ39>

<http://qz.com/495537/from-the-dutch-to-kindertransport-britain-has-a-long-history-of-welcoming-refugees/>

<http://europe.newsweek.com/ten-times-britain-took-refugees-times-crisis-332454>

One interesting and very positive response is that of the regional government of Valencia that says that if each city, town and village in Valencia accepted just one Syrian family into their community, then the Spanish commitment to caring for 2,000 families would be met.

It goes further - if every city town and village in Spain's autonomous communities did the same then 34,000 Syrian refugees would be housed.

<http://www.thinkspain.com/news-spain/26384/valencia-calls-for-as-many-refugees-as-possible-for-region>

This is not the time for 'non-intervention'.

In 2015 as in 1937 there are difficult economic times at home, but we hope that the British response to the current refugee crisis, many of whom are children, is as generous as that given to the Basque Children in 1937.