



**04.08.2016 – 18 -year-old Yusra Mardini left Syria for Europe on a boat packed with refugees. With land in sight, the vessel began to sink and she and her sister had to swim the last part of the journey to Greece. After several months in Germany, she has qualified to swim at the Rio Olympics as part of Team Refugee, which was set up by the International Olympic Committee in recognition of the worldwide refugee crisis.**

Since the modern Olympics began in 1896, over 200 national teams have vied for glory at the Summer and Winter Games. Now, for the first time, a team of refugees will compete as well.

At the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro, 10 refugee athletes from four countries will compete together as the [Refugee Olympic Team](#) . Among them are two swimmers, two judokas, a marathoner and five medium-distance runners.

Their athletic prowess and resilience is a tribute to the courage and perseverance of all refugees – at a time when the number of people displaced by violence and persecution is at the highest level since the Second World War.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jg5s659Gag>