How Hiring Refugees Helps Brands

RESULTS FROM A RECENT SURVEY AMONG CONSUMERS IN SPAIN ABOUT REFUGEE-RELATED BRAND ACTIVITIES

Methodology
Tent recently commissioned a survey to explore current consumer opinions about refugee-related brand activities. The survey was conducted online by Qualtrics among 800 adults aged 18 and over in Spain. Fieldwork took place between November 2022 and January 2023.

Over the past 12 months, Europe has experienced one of the fastest forced displacement crises in history and the largest since the Second World War

Prior to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Spain was hosting approximately 120,000 refugees – primarily from Venezuela and Syria.

Since February 2022, an additional 170,000 refugees from Ukraine have been recorded in the country.

Key Findings

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Spanish consumers expect brands to act responsibly and are broadly supportive of companies stepping-up for refugees. When asked about specific actions companies can take, consumers indicate by a very wide margin that they are more likely to buy from companies hiring refugees, with 65% supporting this action – 14 percentage points higher than the average recorded among the seven European countries surveyed. Consumer response was similar towards companies donating money to support refugee causes, which the vast majority of companies have historically preferred to do, due to it being perceived as more humanitarian and less controversial. While still indicating support, consumers respond slightly less favourably to companies engaging in government advocacy to increase the number of refugees, as this is more politically polarising.

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<th>% of consumers less likely to buy from a company…</th>
<th>% of consumers more likely to buy from a company…</th>
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<td>…hiring refugees</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>…donating money to help refugees</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>…advocating for the government to accept more refugees</td>
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290,000 refugees
Young consumers, in particular, are more likely to buy from brands hiring refugees, with more than 70% of Gen Z consumers supporting companies that take this action. But it is not just young consumers who support companies hiring refugees – Spanish consumers of every age group indicate by a very wide margin that they are more likely to buy from brands hiring refugees.

Public opinion towards refugees can appear polarised, but Spanish consumers of all political views support companies hiring refugees. Unsurprisingly, consumers who identify as progressive express very strong support for brands hiring refugees. But even consumers who identify as conservative indicate by a wide margin that they are more likely to buy from companies hiring refugees, agreeing, for example, that when refugees work, they pay taxes, instead of relying on government assistance. In fact, Spain is the only European country among those surveyed where more than 50% of conservative consumers are more likely to buy from brands hiring refugees.

For more information about the survey and its findings, please contact media@tent.org. To find out how your company can work with Tent, please contact info@tent.org.

About the Tent Partnership for Refugees

With more and more refugees displaced for longer periods of time, businesses have a critical role to play in helping refugees to integrate economically in their new communities. Tent was launched in 2016 by Hamdi Ulukaya, the CEO and founder of Chobani – a multibillion dollar food company in the US – to mobilise global businesses to fill this gap by helping connect refugees to work. Today, Tent is a network of over 300 major companies committed to hiring, training, and mentoring refugees. Find out more at www.tent.org.