

BUSINESS, SOCIETY & ETHICS

Vodafone Qatar & The Crisis in Syria

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the reading:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.

Reading

- Dana Haidan, "Vodafone Qatar and the Crisis in Syria".

Questions

1. Given the charitable donation policy around involvement in political or religious causes, what is the business implication of Vodafone Qatar supporting the funding request from the Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation for Humanitarian Services (RAF)?
2. How should Vodafone Qatar balance the potentially positive local brand impact if it were to contribute to the RAF fund versus the company's secular and politically neutral global brand image?
3. Given that the Chairman of Vodafone Qatar and that of RAF is the same person, does there exist a moral conflict of interest for Vodafone Qatar to give money to the RAF?
4. If you were the CSR manager at Vodafone Qatar, how would you balance the ethical and the business responsibilities when it comes to making a decision in relation to this request?