



## **“Skittles are candy; refugees are people”: Mars, Inc. perfectly rebukes Donald Trump Jr.’s tweet comparing Syrian refugees to poisoned Skittles**

**"If I had a bowl of skittles and I told you just three would kill you. Would you take a handful?" Trump Jr. tweeted**

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I really wanted to avoid the great Skittles debate of 2016. I shut off my social media just as the memes mocking Donald Trump Jr.’s ridiculous fear mongering over Syrian refugees took over Twitter last night. But, of course, I awoke to candy comparisons leading ever newscast this morning. So alas, let’s dissect the latest “gaffe” from the eldest Trump son.

On Monday night, Trump Jr used a Twitter post to liken Syrian refugees to poisoned Skittles in order to suggest that America should not accept any. Recycling a white supremacist meme first shared by former Republican congressman Joe Walsh, Trump Jr. affixed the official Trump logo onto an image of a bowl of Skittles, asking: “If I had a bowl of Skittles and I told you three would kill you, would you take a handful?”

“That’s our Syrian refugee problem.”

While Trump Jr. was tweeting his fear mongering of Syrian refugees as poisonous candy, his father was depicting the war-torn refugees to poisonous snakes.

“Now I saved you, cried the woman. And you’ve bit me, even why,” Trump sang at a Florida rally Monday, reciting the lyrics to a jazz song called “The Snake.”

“And you know your bite is poisonous and now I’m going to die. Ah shut up silly woman, said that reptile with a grin. Now you knew damn well I was a snake before you brought me in.”

The White House announced last week that it wanted to increase the number of refugees it accepts in the next fiscal year to 110,000. This year, the country has taken in more than 11,000 Syrian refugees.

More than 11 million people – over half of Syria’s population – have fled their homes, including 6.6 million displaced inside Syria and 4.8 million seeking refuge abroad, according to the latest UN figures.

And as the Washington Post pointed out, the bowl of Skittles would have to be awfully large for Trump's analogy to be accurate: the odds of being killed by a refugee in a terror attack is about 1 in more than 3.6 billion, according to a recent study from the conservative Cato Institute.

The push-back on Trump Jr.'s tweet came swiftly Monday evening. A spokeswoman for Wrigley Americas, which makes Skittles, clearly rebuked Trump's dehumanizing comparison.

"Skittles are candy. Refugees are people. We don't feel it's an appropriate analogy," said Denise Young, vice president of corporate affairs. "We will respectfully refrain from further commentary as anything we say could be misinterpreted as marketing."

Mars, Incorporated, the parent company of Wrigley, tweeted the same message.

But all of the outrage and public condemnation doesn't seem to have phased the eldest Trump, who just last week faced rebuke from the Anti-Defamation League for his "gas chamber" joke. On Tuesday morning, Trump Jr. followed-up his controversial tweet with more fear mongering about "western women" being "sacrificed at the altar of mass migration."