



Skittles Responds to Donald Trump Jr.

Michael Sebastian

September 21, 2016

Donald Trump Jr.'s widely condemned tweet Monday night comparing Syrian refugees to poisoned Skittles drew a sharp response from Wrigley Americas, the company that makes Skittles.

"Skittles are candy. Refugees are people," Denise Young, VP of corporate affairs for Wrigley Americas, told *The Hollywood Reporter*. "We don't feel it's an appropriate analogy. We will respectfully refrain from further commentary as anything we say could be misinterpreted as marketing."

Thanks to Trump Jr.'s tweet - which carried official Trump/Pence branding - Skittles surged to the top of Twitter's trending topics list Monday night, with many of the tweets pointing out precisely what Wrigley Americas said: Refugees are people.

At the same time, Trump supporters rallied behind the tweet. The idea that immigrants from the Muslim world can spread terror in the U.S. is a central theme of Trump's campaign and one he's sought to underscore after the bombings in New York and New Jersey, which authorities believe were carried out by an Afghan immigrant.

But, not only is the idea of comparing humans to candy deeply insensitive and xenophobic, it's also, as the *Washington Post* pointed out, bad logic. The odds of being killed by a refugee in a terror attack is about 1 in roughly 3.6 billion, a Cato Institute study from last week said. In other words, the bowl of Skittles would have to be huge.

The Skittles tweet comes less than a week after Donald Trump Jr. drew criticism for saying, on a conservative talk radio show in Philadelphia, that the media would be "warming up the gas chamber right now" if Republicans deployed the same tactics that the Democrats have used.

Updated 9/20 at 7:00 p.m.: The *BBC* now reports that the picture Donald Trump Jr. used in his tweet was taken by a refugee - and he does not approve of how his photography was used.

"In 1974, when I was six years old, I was a refugee from the Turkish occupation of Cyprus so I would never approve the use of this image against refugees," David Kittos, 48, said. "I have

never put this image up for sale. This was not done with my permission, I don't support Trump's politics and I would never take his money to use it."