

Kurds those few who did not blame the majority group were not necessarily more or less forgiving.

Finally, the path towards forgiveness was similar in Turkey and in Belgium. This is probably because immigrants from Turkey in Europe, in Belgium in particular, are strongly attached to their ethnic origin; they stay in closed communities, have strong ethnic ties and follow news and politics from Turkey (Phalet, Baysu, & van Acker 2015). Finding a similar model across Turkish and Belgian contexts externally validates our model and contributes to the understanding of the understudied conflict between Turks and Kurds in Belgium.

There are two main limitations of this study. Both Kurdish and Turkish respondents in this study were highly-educated and thus not representative of the respective populations. Although our findings among educated young people is still of great importance for the resolution of the intergroup conflict in Turkey, future studies should ideally include both educated and uneducated segments of society. An additional limitation of the study is the use of single indicators to assess identities and perceived compatibility. Although single indicator measures of group identification are commonly-used and were proved externally valid (Postmes, Haslam, & Jans, 2013), more elaborate composite measures would be required to see whether the findings generalize to different dimensions or components of group identities.

Overall, this research sheds light on the questions why and how ingroup and superordinate identities affect intergroup forgiveness and why perceived compatibility between ingroup and superordinate identities matters. It also highlights potential pathways to forgiveness for an on-going conflict. The armed conflict between the Kurdish minority and the Turkish majority groups has been going on more than 30 years, during which many people died and so many loved ones and victims were left behind. We hope that the findings of this research contribute to the peace process in Turkey and elsewhere in the world.

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