



RAPID RESPONSE: SYRIAN REFUGEE ALERT

Dear Disciples Leaders,

October 6, 2015

Congratulations for the difference you are already making in ensuring our nation's compassionate response to Syrian refugees! **Now, WE NEED CLERGY AND OTHER FAITH LEADERS TO SIGN ON TO THIS FAITH LEADERS LETTER <http://bit.ly/WelcomeAllRefugees> IMMEDIATELY to support Syrian refugees!!**

Add your name to the Faith Leaders Letter here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PNbNKO3TV1ZcoaKhddNCV209kzGJvDs4yS11y5ODZw/viewform>. Names added today will be listed as the letter is shared with Members of Congress ahead of a House Hearing on Syrian Refugee Resettlement this Wednesday. After that time, **we'll continue to gather signatures**, and will continue to send the letter to national leaders. **Please, will you help us share this alert and letter with all clergy colleagues that you know?**

Invite church members and friends to sign the Petition to the President:

In this time of the WORST HUMANITARIAN CRISIS our world has experienced since WWII, I am delighted to report that Disciples last week helped push us over the needed threshold of 100,000 sign-ons needed for a Petition to the President, requesting a greater number of Syrians be resettled! THANK YOU, CONGRATULATIONS, and we will let you know the response to your request we receive from the White House!

This **Petition to the President** is still open for signatures from ALL church and community members: <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/authorize-and-resettle-syrian-refugees-us>. We hope you can **share it far and wide with church members and friends** as a concrete way all Americans can help demonstrate our readiness to welcome Syrians currently seeking resettlement!

Celebrate voices of faith supporting refugees:

Also last week, Rev. Ron Degges, President of Disciples Home Missions, joined other faith leaders in speaking at a Press Conference on Capitol Hill to support Syrian refugees. Read his full statement here: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/RIM-Ron-Degges-Syrian-Refugee-Press-Conf-FINAL.pdf>.

What else can churches and individuals do to help Syrians?

There is so much we can do! As Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, we continue to urge all congregations to: (turn page)

- Respond to our Refugee Emergency Alert to assist with resettling Syrian and other refugees currently entering the U.S. Find it at: <https://www.discipleshomeissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/RIM-Disciples-OCT-update-Refugee-Emergency-Needs-Alert-2015.pdf>.
- Study this map to see which of our Church World Service partner refugee resettlement offices is located nearest to your church: <https://www.discipleshomeissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/CWS-Affiliate-Map.pdf>. Then, find the address of your closest offices here: <http://www.cwsglobal.org/our-work/refugee-services/irp-affiliates.html>--and contact our office to help make connections, and to share your stories of how you helped refugees!
- Go often to our RIM Syrian resources link: <https://www.discipleshomeissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/refugee-immigration-ministries/rim-resources/syrian-refugee-resources/> for additional information about Syrian refugees and the crisis, which is being updated constantly!
- Read and share this story of a particular Syrian refugee. <https://www.discipleshomeissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/RIM-SYRIAN-REFUGEE-STORY-OF-HUSSAM-ALROUSTOM.pdf>.
- Check out this just released resource from our Family & Children's Ministries to engage your church's children in supporting and understanding Syrian and other refugees: <http://www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/#!kids-to-kids/cy43> for "Ways for Kids to Help."
- Continue to learn through our Global Ministries about our partnership work on root causes of the Syrian Crisis in the Middle East. Go to: <http://www.globalministries.org/syria>.
- Reach Out through Week of Compassion to support our partners in the Middle East and European regions. See: <http://www.weekofcompassion.org/syria/>.

Further (and fun!) faith partnership campaigns to welcome refugees are just beginning!:

- Share your stories of how immigrants have blessed your life, through the "Blessings Not Burdens" resources here: <http://www.blessingnotburden.org/>. And finally, you're invited to:
- Upload your photos here: <https://americawelcomes.us/> to show that you are ready to welcome refugees! Stay tuned for more information about our coming "Ready to Welcome Weekend" of Nov. 13-15--as we'll be asking faith communities to especially upload pictures of how they are READY TO WELCOME REFUGEES over those days!

Again, don't forget to: **Add your name here to the Faith Leaders Letter** as soon as you can <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PNbNKO3TV1ZcoaKhddNCV209kzGJvDs4yS11y5ODZw/viewform>, and share with your friends to help the world's most vulnerable refugees!

Grateful to partner in multiplying mercy and justice,

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries
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RIM is a ministry of Disciples Home Missions,
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