



URGE CONGRESS: Ensure the U.S. Resettles at Least 45,000 Refugees in FY2018!

CALL YOUR SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES TODAY! Call (866) 961-4293*

*Please call 3 times to connect with your Representative and both of your Senators

Sample Script: "I'm your constituent from [CITY/TOWN], and I urge you to support the U.S. refugee resettlement program. I strongly oppose President Trump's all-time low cap on refugee admissions, as well as his continued Muslim and refugee bans. I urge you to do everything in your power to see that the administration resettle at least the 45,000 refugees they have set as the cap for 2018 and urge the administration to commit to resettling at least 75,000 in 2019. Resettlement is a core American legacy that allows refugees to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. My community welcomes refugees, and I urge you to reflect the best of our nation by supporting the refugee resettlement program."

Host a #WhereRtheRefugees Public Witness Event

Interfaith vigils, press conferences, actions, and foot washing ceremonies all make a difference.

We must escalate public pressure on elected officials to press the administration to actually resettle at least 45,000 refugees, rather than only 20,000. Even small events, multiplied across the country, will send a powerful message to the Trump administration and Congress that welcoming immigrants and refugees is moral issue that is important to the broader public, people of faith and community partners. **Steps to a successful public witness event:**

Coordinate a public witness event with faith leaders, immigrants' rights groups, refugee resettlement agencies, immigrant leaders, community members, and if possible local elected leaders. Identify core leaders and speakers, including refugees to help plan and speak at the event. Consider inviting officials such as Representatives, Senators, City Council Members, the Mayor, etc. Promote the event through social media, public service announcements, flyers, websites, and bulletins.

Plan an In-District Visit with Your Members of Congress during July 2-6 or Aug. 6-Sept. 3

Many members of Congress will be in their home districts during the above times—although Senator McConnell decided in early June to cancel much of the August recess time for Senators. See: <https://www.npr.org/2018/06/05/617219548/mitch-mcconnell-cancels-senates-august-recess>. Establishing and strengthening relationships with your Senators and Representatives is crucial to protecting refugee resettlement and holding the administration accountable to resettle at least 45,000 refugees this year and at least 75,000 next year. Every Senator and Representative has an office – often multiple offices – in their home state. Use our [RCUSA Toolkit](#) to request meetings and put together a team. **Get a team together:** A team ideally includes resettlement staff, refugee leaders, faith leaders from different traditions, volunteers, other community leaders, etc. Be strategic in finding team members who best represent your community's call to affirm refugee resettlement and whom the Member may already know or respect. Your team should commit to building an ongoing relationship with the office. **Learn about who represents your community in Congress:** Go to www.house.gov and www.senate.gov to find out which Members of Congress represent you and your surrounding community. **Contact our Disciples RIM Office to help you prepare!!**

Write Opinion Editorials & Letters to the Editor for Local Media Outlet

CALL our Disciples RIM office for samples, and use talking points such as these: Where are the Refugees?

Today, 65 million people around the world are displaced, including 22.5 million refugees - the highest number in recorded history. Estimates [indicate](#) that a person is displaced every 20 minutes. However, when global need is at its highest, the Trump administration has quickly reversed our nation's long history as a world leader in refugee protection and resettlement. The administration set an all-time low refugee admissions goal for fiscal year 2018 at 45,000 - turning our back on the values of compassion and welcome we claim to represent. What's worse, the administration is on track to resettle only [20,000 refugees](#) this year, not even half of their own goal. By mid-April, the administration only resettled just over 11,200 refugees. This amounts to a broken promise to tens of thousands of refugees who face the [most rigorous](#) selection, security vetting and medical screening process of any traveler to the United States. Resettlement is reserved only for the most vulnerable refugees. While families remain separated and refugees wait - at times in very dangerous or unsafe regions - the administration has imposed a series of [refugee bans](#) that seek to dismantle refugee resettlement program, jeopardize our national security, and devastate families hoping to reunite with loved ones. We have a moral responsibility to fulfill our commitment to resettle at least 45,000 refugees this fiscal year. [Insert local story of refugee here]. Refugees are contributing to our community and our local economy. Study after study show that refugees and immigrants create new businesses and new jobs.

Share on Facebook & Twitter (& Tweet to @DHSgov, @realDonaldTrump, & @StanleyRea)

FACT: There are 65 million people displaced around the world, including 22.5 million #refugees - the highest number in recorded history. Instead of helping, the Trump administration cut resettlement numbers in half. Only 20% of that record-low goal have actually arrived. #WhereRtheRefugees #RefugeesWelcome

For more information, contact: Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, ssstanley@dhm.disciples.org, or 202-957-7826.

Use and Print Images Such as These in Your Church's Work!

