

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo  
The Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. President and Secretary Pompeo,

As organizations that are committed to human rights, refugee rights, and humanitarian protection, we write to express our strong support for a robust U.S. refugee resettlement program and a refugee resettlement goal of 95,000 for FY2021.

The U.S. refugee resettlement program is a vital, life-saving program that protects the most vulnerable refugees and helps to reunite families fractured by forced migration. In the midst of the worst global displacement crisis in world history, with more than 29.6 million refugees worldwide, a strong U.S. refugee resettlement program is a humanitarian expression of our core American values, including religious freedom and democracy, a strategic tool to support key allies and help to stabilize sensitive regions impacted by forced migration, and a positive economic driver for many welcoming U.S. communities.

Refugees are individuals who have fled their homes due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group in their home country. Resettlement is the last resort for refugees who cannot rebuild their lives where they have first fled or return safely to their home country; it is a critical safety net in the humanitarian system. Less than one percent of refugees worldwide have access to resettlement. Due to ongoing wars, regional instability, lack of economic or governmental infrastructure, and religious persecution, many refugees will never be able to repatriate to their country of origin safely. Additionally, due to particular vulnerabilities such as gender-based violence, and continued threats and discrimination, many refugees will never be able to integrate into the community to which they fled.

Refugees who are selected to be resettled to the United States are the most rigorously vetted individuals to enter the U.S. and must pass through a series of security and medical clearances in order to be approved. Since the inception of the formalized U.S. refugee resettlement program in 1980, over three million refugees have been resettled to the United States. Refugees have become citizens, civic leaders, and entrepreneurs, and have contributed enormously to our country. Thousands of volunteers, houses of worship, and business leaders work alongside recently arrived refugees to ensure they can thrive here and enjoy the liberties and protections offered by our country. Indeed, the U.S. refugee resettlement program is a vital public-private partnership that helps refugees achieve self-sufficiency and a sense of belonging in their new communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged every level of American society, and refugees have been essential in the fight against this pandemic. Over 176,000 refugees are healthcare professionals treating COVID-19 patients in hospitals and nursing homes and clinics, and over 175,000 are part of the U.S. food supply chain, laboring as farm workers who put food on our tables, and truck drivers and grocery store workers making sure the shelves are stocked. Refugees have been on the frontlines reaching out as new neighbors to help the communities that welcomed them to overcome this virus.

The Presidential Determination for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 was set at the lowest level in U.S. history at 18,000. Since the start of the U.S. refugee resettlement program in 1980 until 2016, the average annual refugee admissions goal has been 95,000. We urge the Department of State to strengthen the U.S. refugee admissions program as a life-saving foreign policy and humanitarian tool and admit 95,000 refugees in FY2021, a return to historic norms. We believe having a robust U.S. refugee resettlement program is part and parcel of strong U.S. leadership and also promotes democracy and supports the United States' foreign policy priorities agenda abroad.

Sincerely,

Action Corps  
Advocating Opportunity  
African American Ministers In Action  
African Communities Together  
Aima  
Alianza Americas  
American Jewish World Service  
Amnesty International USA  
Anshe Chesed  
Arianna's Center  
Armenian Relief Society of Western USA, Social Services  
Asian American Advocacy Fund  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO  
Asylum Access  
Bethany Christian Services  
Beyond90, Inc.  
Bilingual International Assistant Services  
Border Perspective  
Bread for the World  
Brooklyn For Peace  
Brotherhood Synagogue  
Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church  
Caminando Juntos - Presentation Sisters Hispanic Ministry  
Canopy NWA  
CARE USA  
Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency  
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice  
Church World Service  
Claretian Missionary Sisters  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Columbia Law School Immigrants' Rights Clinic  
Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS)  
Congregation Kolot Chayeinu  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Demand Progress Education Fund  
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
East End Temple  
Engage Florida  
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities  
Ephrata Church of the Brethren  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Exodus Refugee Immigration, Inc.

Faith Communities Organizing for Sanctuary  
Faiths for Safe Water  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
Florida Indigenous Rights and Environmental Equality  
Food for the Hungry  
Food Not Bombs Lake Worth  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freedom Network USA  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Global Communities  
Guatemalan Maya Center  
Habecker Mennonite Church  
Hebrew Tabernacle, Washington Heights, NYC  
Helen Keller International  
HIAS  
Hispanic Federation  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC  
Hope Border Institute  
Human Rights First  
IAMC  
Immigrant Action Alliance  
InterAction  
InterFaith Works of CNY  
International Catholic Migration Commission  
International Institute of Los Angeles  
International Refugee Assistance Project  
International Rescue Committee  
IRIS - Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services  
Islamic Relief USA  
J Street  
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA  
Jesuit Social Research Institute  
Jewish Family and Community Services of Pittsburgh  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles  
Jewish Family Service Seattle  
Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc.  
Justice and Peace Office- Diocese of Joliet  
L.A.C.E.S.  
Lancaster Church of the Brethren  
Landisville Mennonite Church  
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)  
Latina Institute Florida  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Libyan American Alliance  
Lila Latinx LGBTQ Inc,  
Lititz Church of the Brethren  
Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
Lutheran Services in Iowa  
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area  
Men of Reform Judaism  
Mercy Corps  
Miami Workers Center  
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center  
Migration and Refugee Services of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees  
Mustino Times  
NALEC  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans  
National Council of Churches  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights  
National Partnership for New Americans  
Nebraska Appleseed  
Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA)  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
New York Immigration Coalition  
Northminster Presbyterian Church  
Norwegian Refugee Council USA  
NuDay  
Ohio Immigrant Alliance  
Orange County Classroom Teachers Association  
Oxfam America  
Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)  
Poderosa is Her Power  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration  
Program for Torture Victims (PTV)  
QLatinx  
Red Gate Properties, L.L.C.  
Refugee Congress  
Refugee Council USA  
RefugeeOne  
Refugees International  
Resilience Force  
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Gulf Coast Florida  
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida, Inc.  
Safe Horizon  
Save the Children  
Save the Children Action Network  
SEIU Florida Public Services Union  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sojourners  
South Dakota Voices for Peace  
South Florida Muslim Federation  
Southeast Asian Resource Action Center  
Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission  
SouthWest Organizing Project  
St. James Cathedral  
St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)  
SWANS - Solivita Womens' Action Network  
Synagogue Coalition on the Refugee & Immigration Crisis  
Syrian Community Network  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Temple Beth El, Stamford, CT  
Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy/Texas Impact  
The Association of Salvadorans of Los Angeles  
The Black Alliance for Just Immigration  
The Episcopal Church  
The Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

The Hunger Project  
The Shul of New York  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
The Workers Circle  
TN Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants  
UNA-USA Kentucky Division  
UNA-USA Southern California Division  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ)  
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1445  
United Nations Association of San Diego  
United Nations Association of the National Capital Area  
United Stateless  
USAHello  
USC International Human Rights Clinic  
WeaveTales  
Welcoming America  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center  
Witness at the Border  
Women for Afghan Women  
Women of Faith  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Word Travels/Stories of Arrival Refugee and Immigrant Poetry Project  
World Relief  
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights