

ACTION ALERT

Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

September 8, 2020

Migrants and Refugees: In faithfulness to our long tradition of welcoming the stranger, we advocate for justice for the undocumented, immigrants, and peoples on the move and address policies that compel them to leave their home countries.

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity Priority Issues

ISSUE: Welcoming Refugees

The Trump administration is currently considering how many refugees to welcome in 2021. U.S. law requires that the President consult with both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees before making the “Presidential Determination” and it states that the process must be completed and number set by September 30. Catholics, and all people of faith, recognize the inherent dignity of each person, and hear the call of Jesus, who was part of a refugee family, to welcome immigrants and refugees. We know that refugees contribute greatly to the United States in ordinary times and have continued to contribute as essential workers during the COVID-19 crisis, including 176,000 refugees serving in the healthcare field and 175,000 laboring as part of the food supply chain. We also know that it is possible continue to resettle refugees safely, even in the midst of global pandemic. All refugees are always required to undergo medical checks, including for COVID-like symptoms prior to entering the United States and are required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

Please urge your Members of Congress to support refugee resettlement and ensure the President allows refugees to be resettled in the United States. Ask your elected officials to urge the Trump Administration to:

- consult with the House and Senate Judiciary Committees regarding the refugee admissions goal for 2021 before September 30th, and
- build back the refugee resettlement program by setting the goal at the historic average of 95,000 refugees allowed to be admitted in the next fiscal year.

ACTION: Contact your Members of Congress to ensure the Trump Administration honors its legal obligation to meaningfully consult with Congress about this year's refugee admissions level before September 30th. Ask your Members to urge the Administration to build back the refugee resettlement program by setting the goal 95,000 refugees, the historic annual average.

Call your Senators and Representative using the Capitol Hill switchboard (202) 224-3121

As your constituent and a Sister of Charity/Seton Associate, I urge you to ensure that the Trump Administration meaningfully consults with Congress before September 30, 2020, about the annual refugee admission goal for FY 2021. I also ask you to urge the Administration to build back annual refugee admissions to the historic average of 95,000 refugees admitted per year.

People of faith and the Catholic Church strongly supports welcoming refugees and the rebuilding of the refugee resettlement program. Refugees contribute greatly to our communities, particularly in the time of COVID-19, where 176,000 refugees work in the health care sector and 175,000 refugees in the food supply chain. They are valuable members of our communities.

Thank for your consideration.

After you contact your own members consider also calling these Congressional Leaders who will be leading the annual refugee consultations with the Trump Administration:

- Sen. Graham (R-SC), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee:
202-224-5972 / @LindseyGrahamSC
- Sen. Cornyn (R-TX), Chair, Senate Immigration Subcommittee:
202-224-2934 / @JohnCornyn
- Sen. Feinstein (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee:
202-224-3841 / @SenFeinstein
- Senator Durbin (D-IL), Ranking Member, Senate Immigration Subcommittee: 202-224-2152 / @SenatorDurbin
- Rep. Nadler (NY-10), Chair, House Judiciary Committee:
202-225-5635 / @RepJerryNadler
- Rep. Lofgren (CA-19), Chair, House Immigration Subcommittee:
202-225-3072 / @RepZoeLofgren
- Rep. Jordan (OH-04), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee:
(202) 225-2676 / @Jim_Jordan
- Rep. Buck (CO-04), Ranking Member, House Immigration Subcommittee:
202-225-4676 / @RepKenBuck

PRAYER:

God of love and compassion: may we always recognize your spirit: in the refugee family, seeking safety from violence; in the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables; in the asylum-seekers, seeking justice for their families; in the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world. Give us hearts that break open whenever our brothers and sisters turn to us.

Give us hearts that no longer turn deaf to their voices in times of need; Give us eyes to recognize a moment for grace instead of a threat. Give us voices that fail to remain silent but which decide instead to advocate prophetically. Give us hands that reach out in welcome, but also in work, for a world of justice until all homelands are safe and secure. Amen.

- Fr. Dan Hartnett S.J.