



Call to Action: Stop Congress from Cutting Refugee Resettlement Funds

Communities from multiple faith backgrounds, refugee resettlement organizations, refugee and human rights leaders, and organizations that work with refugees are working in partnership to provide a vibrant welcome to refugees among us, and to encourage our country to continue to respond to the world's crisis by offering hospitality to refugees. As people of faith, we are called to love our neighbor, welcome the stranger, and stand with the vulnerable. Let us work together with refugees and immigrants from many different lands to welcome them to our communities.

In addition to providing hospitality, we are called to action to work for peace and mutual acceptance. Through Refugees Welcome events in our communities, we offer a public witness to change the public narrative and influence lawmakers, locally and nationally, to stop anti-refugee bills and start passing welcoming policies. Over 100 Refugees Welcome events were held around World Refugee Day on June 20, 2016. We celebrate all of the events and encourage you to take the next step by urging Congress to provide robust funding for refugee assistance and resettlement.

Right now, we have an opportunity to stop Congress from jeopardizing the lives of vulnerable refugees. From now through September, Congress is considering funding bills for Fiscal Year 2017 that would drastically cut funds for the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and reduce resources to serve refugees abroad and in the United States. These proposed funding cuts would turn our backs on the 100,000 refugees we have pledged to welcome, damage integration efforts, and negatively impact communities that welcome refugees.

As we face the largest recorded displacement crisis in history, resettlement is one of the key ways that the U.S. can lead by example and encourage other countries to help refugees. President Obama committed to resettling 100,000 refugees in 2017, an increase from 85,000 in 2016. It is critical that even this relatively small increase is met with increased funds to ensure local communities have the resources they need to help refugees integrate and thrive.

You Can Take Action Today: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/fy17funding/>

For more information, please visit www.refugeesarewelcome.org
or email us at info.refugeesarewelcome@gmail.com.