



U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

EVERYONE.
EVERYWHERE.
EQUAL VALUE.

June 14, 2017

Dear Distinguished Members of Congress,

As President and CEO of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), I urge you to uphold the longstanding commitment of the United States to refugee protection.

USCRI is an international advocacy and domestic refugee resettlement organization, headquartered in Arlington, VA. We were established in 1911 to address the needs and rights of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide by advancing fair and humane public policy, facilitating and providing direct professional services, and promoting the full participation of migrants in community life. Our purpose driven organization serves refugees and immigrants with a national network of over 100 agencies and offices. For over 106 years we have helped to build America by enabling refugees and immigrants to restart lives, successfully integrate into new homes and communities and turn tragedy into prosperity.

As we recognize World Refugee Day on June 20th, our community based network is asking members of Congress to:

1. Support a Presidential Determination of at least 75,000 new refugees to the United States in 2018. Refugee admissions are part of a foreign policy strategy that makes our nation a world leader in standing for freedom and human rights. We must remain a beacon of hope for individuals and families seeking safety from persecution.
2. Maintain stable domestic funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) for refugees and other populations of concern in the U.S. Initial support enables refugees to build new lives and quickly contribute to our economy. One employment program shows 85% of clients to become self-sufficient within 180 days of arrival.
3. Maintain robust international funding for refugees and other forcibly displaced people and for countries that host them. Resettlement is a solution for less than 1% of refugees worldwide. Both support for the uprooted and the resettled are needed.
4. Make statements and share the stories of resettled refugees to your state and district on World Refugee Day. Newly arrived refugees and former refugees who are now U.S. citizens value freedom and love our country. Every day we hear the thanks and gratitude of refugees to the U.S. and see their success. Our Refugees Love America video series features some of their messages: <http://www.rcusa.org/refugees-love-america/>.

If you would like an introduction and visit to your local refugee resettlement program I will be delighted to connect you.

Thank you.

President & CEO

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