2017 Toolkit
Equipping You to Speak Up for Refugees

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The 3 Asks

Greetings,

Thank you for your support on refugees.

With the open letter to President Trump and Vice President Pence, we would like to maximize the impact of the letter in support of refugees. Would you consider doing the following 3 things?

1) Spread the Word. Use social media to share the letter with your followers and community using #StillWeStand and #WeWelcomeRefugees.

2) Advocate. Hand deliver the letter to your local Congressional office.

3) Get your leaders to sign on. Ask your pastor and/or church leaders to sign onto the letter.

Your Voice Matters.

Your story as a church leader is important. By letting your elected officials know you support refugees and by sharing your story publicly through local media and social media, we will elevate a Christian conscience on refugees, changing the narrative around who refugees are and our Christian responsibility towards our neighbors.

For a longer version of this toolkit with talking points, position papers, etc. please visit www.worldrelief.org/advocate

Thank you.
Share the Letter on Social Media

#StillWeStand #WeWelcomeRefugees

Sample Tweets or Facebook posts:

- Love @WorldRelief letter w/ 5,000+ evangelical leaders on refugees. Read it here http://bit.ly/2kfepYe #StillWeStand #WeWelcomeRefugees

- @WorldRelief released letter w/ 5,000+ evangelical leaders to support refugees http://bit.ly/2kfepYe #StillWeStand #WeWelcomeRefugees

- Evangelical leaders from every state support refugees including me. Read letter http://bit.ly/2kfepYe #StillWeStand #WeWelcomeRefugees

- My community welcomes refugees. And we need our elected officials to as well. http://bit.ly/2kfepYe #StillWeStand #WeWelcomeRefugees

- Want to stand with refugees? Sign onto a letter I also supported by going here: http://bit.ly/2kfepYe #StillWeStand #WeWelcomeRefugees

Feel free to include the following individuals in your Tweets:

@RealDonaldTrump
@POTUS
@VP
@WhiteHouse
@Reince
@PressSec
Deliver the Letter to Your Elected Officials


Find your Congressional representatives.
Go to www.worldrelief.org/advocate and click on “2. Email your elected officials here.” When you enter in your full address, you will be able to email and locate the phone number of your Member of Congress (1 Representative and 2 Senators).

Call or email your Congress person’s office and ask to set up a meeting with your Member of Congress.
When you call your Congress person’s office, explain who you are and ask how you can set up a meeting with your Member of Congress to discuss refugee issues. They may refer you to a staffer who specializes in refugee issues or else give you the contact information for the scheduler to make a formal request with the Member (sample meeting request letter follows).

Steps to Prepare and Have a Successful Meeting:

1. **Gather a team together:** Gather a group of your church staff, volunteers, and, if possible, refugees themselves to attend this meeting with you. Communicate with each other in advance to discuss current relationships with policy makers and to plan the agenda with speaking roles. Collect materials to share with the Member or staffer (letters, photos, policy statements, etc.)

2. **Learn about your elected officials:** Find out what personal interests your Member has and try to find a hook connected to refugees. Also, are your Members of Congress on key committees, like Foreign Relations, Judiciary or Appropriations? If so, they have jurisdiction over various aspects of the refugee program. Even if they don’t sit on these committees, they can still be a champion for refugees.

3. **Meet with your Congressperson:** During your meeting with your Congress person, you should begin by providing time for each person to briefly introduce themselves and their background; share your personal story of why you care about refugees; share the letter and other relevant materials; ask questions about their position on refugees; make an ask for their ongoing support and leadership on refugee issues.

4. **Pray for your Congressperson:** Take time at the end of the meeting to ask whomever you’re meeting with whether you can pray for them. Prayer is often a good way to end the meeting as it shows care for the staffer and Member personally beyond the issues we care about.

5. **Take Photos:** Ask to take photos with the staffer or Member during or after the meeting. Share on social media about your meeting, tagging your elected official.

Follow Up

Send a thank you email to the staffer or Member after the meeting with any information they asked for and any other relevant information you think would be helpful. Invite the staffer and/or official to an upcoming event to meet with refugees.

Follow Up with World Relief

Please fill out this form http://bit.ly/21cX7Pe with an update on whether or not you were able to deliver your letter and how your meeting went.
Sample Meeting Request Letter to Your Members of Congress

[Date]

The Honorable [Senator/Representative] (find this information at www.worldrelief.org/advocate or www.senate.gov and www.house.gov)

[room number] [name of congressional office building]
Washington, DC [20510/20515]

Dear [Senator/Representative] [last name]:

As your constituent [add your title/position and church name if relevant], I would like to request a meeting with you to discuss the refugee crisis.

The United States has a long history of providing protection to persons seeking safety from persecution. In the aftermath of World War II, the U.S. led humanitarian assistance efforts to help displaced persons, including resettling hundreds of thousands of Europeans to the United States, including Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. During the Cold War period, the U.S. welcomed refugees from Vietnam, Cuba and the former Soviet Union. Today, we resettle Darfuri refugees fleeing genocide, Bhutanese refugees forced out of their country, Syrian refugees who have fled mass violence and human rights atrocities, Iraqi and Afghan refugees who served alongside the U.S. military, and many other populations in need of lifesaving protection. Refugee resettlement is a public-private partnership that celebrates the hospitality, resilience, and freedom that our communities hold dear.

Refugees are forced to flee their homes because they face persecution on account of their religion, ethnicity, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Over 65 million people are displaced globally, the largest displacement crisis in recorded history, including over 21 million refugees. Resettlement offers a chance for less than 1% of the world’s refugees to reach safety in a third country when no other options remain. Resettlement to the United States is available only for those who demonstrate the greatest and most immediate need for protection and takes place after eligible refugees undergo rigorous selection, security vetting and medical screening processes.

[Church name] helps refugees who have been resettled in [state] by providing them with the tools of self-reliance: housing, job placement and employment skills, English-language classes, and community orientation. Refugees are resilient, hard workers whose innovative skills have contributed greatly to our state.

I would like to request a meeting with you to express our support for refugees and hear your perspective on how the US can be a welcoming country.

Thank you for your service. I look forward to your response.

[your signature and contact information]
Invite your own pastor and church leaders to add their names to the letter.

Ask your pastor and church leaders to sign on by filling out the form at worldrelief.org/refugee-letter.

Top evangelical leaders from all 50 states call on President Trump and Vice President Pence to support refugees.

Dear President Trump and Vice President Pence,

As Christians and leaders, we are deeply concerned by the recently announced reinstatement of refugee resettlement. Our care for the oppressed and suffering is rooted in the call of Jesus to “love our neighbor as we love ourselves.” In the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37), Jesus makes it clear that our “neighbor” includes the stranger and anyone fleeing persecution and violence, regardless of their faith or country.

As Christians, we have a historic call expressed over two thousand years, to serve the suffering. We live in a dangerous world and affirm the crucial role of government in protecting us from harm and in setting the terms on refugee admissions. However, compassion and security can coexist, as they have for decades. For the persecuted and suffering, every day matters; every delay is a missed chance to help.

With the exception of the refugee resettlement program, thousands of local churches throughout the country have played a role in welcoming refugees of all religious backgrounds. Millions to tens of millions of people are waiting and desire to be reunited with thousands more people than would be allowed under the new executive order.

As leaders, we welcome the concerns expressed by religious minorities, including persecuted Christians. Followers of Christ face horrific persecution and even genocide in certain parts of the world. While we are eager to welcome persecuted Christians, we also welcome vulnerable Muslims and people of other faiths or no faith at all. The executive order unilaterally reduces the overall number of refugees allowed this year, robbing families of hope and a future. And it could cost them their lives.

As Christians, we are committed to praying for our elected officials. Our prayer is that God would grant President Trump and all our leaders divine wisdom as they discern the course of our nation, as we also pray for the vulnerable individuals whose decisions directly impact.

Convening a Christian conscience on behalf of refugees.

World Relief