

November 20, 2025

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

Dear Mr. President:

America has long been a beacon for the world's displaced and persecuted. Woven into our national fabric, this principle reflects our deepest values and enduring moral leadership. As part of this legacy, the United States has welcomed over three million refugees since 1980. Since the start of the modern refugee program, the United States has helped welcome families from every region of the world, reflecting our nation's enduring commitment to offer safety and opportunity to those fleeing persecution.

The undersigned individuals and organizations - including partners and supporters of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) network, and others across the country dedicated to refugee protection - write to urge Americans to reaffirm the humanitarian principles at the heart of the U.S. refugee program. America is a nation that does not shrink from its humanitarian obligations but rises to meet them. As national, state, and local organizations on the frontlines of supporting newcomers, we are steadfast in our dedication to welcoming those who have been displaced and persecuted.

In their homeland, refugees often face grave dangers, including war, persecution, torture, ethnic cleansing, and even genocide. They are Afghan women persecuted by the Taliban, Uyghurs targeted for speaking out against the Chinese government, religious minorities in Iran seeking the freedom to practice their faith, and Sudanese children fleeing paramilitary violence. For generations, the United States has long been a beacon of hope for displaced persons, offering them the chance to rebuild their lives and pursue their aspirations.

USCRI and its partners have proudly welcomed more than 400,000 new Americans who have gone on to become business owners, citizens, members of our armed forces, and community leaders. Research, including from the U.S. Government, shows that refugees [contribute](#) over tens of billions of dollars to the U.S. economy a year and are more likely than U.S.-born citizens to start a business.

Refugees power our workforce, enrich our culture, and strengthen our communities. Welcoming them is not just a matter of compassion— it is a commitment to America's prosperity and leadership.

But our legacy of welcome is at risk. This year, the [refugee admissions ceiling](#) is set at 7,500 people, and the [range of populations](#) eligible for resettlement has been sharply reduced from historic norms. This marks a [historic retreat](#) from America's longstanding commitment to refugee protection.

There has never been a worse time for the United States to abandon its commitment to refugees. With conflict and displacement continuing unabated, the number of refugees in the world today is more than double what it was a decade ago. Generations are trapped in limbo—many in displacement camps or urban areas with limited access to work, education, or pathways to permanent status. Protection pathways have corroded, leaving many unable to work in their country of asylum and with no permanent home, no place to put down roots.

Nearly 70 per cent of refugees find safety in the country next door to their own, and [most](#) are hosted by low- and middle-income nations. Refugees often face the threat of further persecution, violence, severe deprivations, or return to persecution while awaiting resettlement.

Less than one percent of refugees are ever given the chance to move to a safe new country and start over; resettlement pathways must grow, not shrink. Resettlement represents the world's promise to protect the most vulnerable—it is a promise that should be upheld, not abandoned.

America is a nation that does not shrink from its humanitarian obligations but rises to meet them. Supporting the refugee program sends a message: America's promise as the land of freedom and opportunity has not faded.

Together, we stand ready to work in partnership with federal, state, and local governments to ensure the United States continues to serve as a beacon of hope for those seeking safety. By recommitting to a strong humanitarian refugee program, we honor our nation's promise as a land of freedom and opportunity.

Sincerely,

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
African Communities Together (ACT)
Al Otro Lado
American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)
American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa (ARAHA)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta
Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)
Center for Engagement and Advocacy in the Americas (CEDA)
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for Victims of Torture
Circles of Love
Climate Refugees
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Coptic Orthodox Charities, Inc
Della Lamb Community Services
ECDC Houston Multicultural Center
Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)
Fresno Immigrant and Refugee Ministries (FIRM)
Forai, Inc. (Friends of Refugees and Immigrants)
Freewheels Houston
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Haitian Bridge Alliance
Heartland Human Care Services
Hello Community Services
Hope For Ukraine
Human Rights First
Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization
Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef)
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service
International Center of Kentucky
International Council for Immigrants and Refugees
International Institute of Buffalo
International Institute of Los Angeles
International Institute of Minnesota

International Institute of New England
International Institute of Southwest Missouri
International Institute of Wisconsin
International Service Center
Jewish Vocational Service, Kansas City
Kindness Begins with Me
La Maestra Family Clinic, Inc.
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of Jewish Women
Nile Sisters Development Initiative
North Carolina African Services Coalition
Northern Nevada International Center
Pacific Gateway Center
Quixote Center
RCHP-AHC (Interfaith-RISE)
Refugee Advocacy Lab
Refugee Congress
Refugee Council USA
The America Team for Displaced Eritreans
The Children's Village and Harlem Dowling
The International Institute of St. Louis
The Workers Circle: Jewish Culture for a Just World
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
Uplift Charity
We Are All America
Welcome Neighbor STL
World Relief

cc:

Secretary Marco Rubio, Department of State
Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Department of Health and Human Services
Congressman Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House
Senator John Thune, Senate Majority Leader

Senator Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Leader

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, House Minority Leader

Senator Chuck Grassley, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Dick Durbin, Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Congressman Jim Jordan, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee

Congressman Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee