

September 16, 2025

Dear Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned 78 national, state, and local organizations representing resettlement agencies, direct service providers, faith-based organizations, and human rights groups, write to urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that the administration **upholds its moral and legal obligations to fully restore the congressionally established U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)** and to take immediate legislative and oversight actions to **fully restore refugees' access to basic healthcare, nutrition assistance, and social services**, ensuring that newly arriving families have the opportunity to thrive.

We urge all Members of Congress to:

1. Urge the administration to **fulfill its legal responsibilities under the Refugee Act of 1980** by conducting meaningful consultations with Congress and setting a refugee admissions goal by October 1st.
2. Pressure the administration to **welcome the most vulnerable, at-risk through the refugee admissions program**, including by prioritizing those who have been waiting for years in the pipeline and have been stranded by the refugee ban.
3. Urge the administration to set a refugee admissions goal of **125,000 for FY 2026** – a level that reflects both the global scale of need and the more than 120,000 refugees already conditionally approved for resettlement.
4. **Defend federal investments in refugee processing, admissions, and resettlement services** and fully restore refugees' access to basic healthcare, nutrition assistance, and social services to ensure that newly arriving families have the opportunity to thrive.

Since January 20th, **the Trump administration has dismantled our nation's ability to welcome refugees, piece by piece**. The administration has resettled only approximately 200 people – a [group of Afrikaners](#), as well as some refugees admitted through [ongoing litigation](#) and under waivers to the refugee ban – while it has gutted refugee assistance in the United States and abroad. We are alarmed by [recent reports](#) that the administration intends to designate a majority of refugee resettlement places in FY26 to Afrikaners, while taking away places from refugees who have been waiting for resettlement for years or even decades. The most vulnerable, at-risk refugees should be admitted, **regardless of their country of origin, race, or faith tradition**.

Built on the fabric of community and bipartisan support, the U.S. resettlement program is **rooted in public-private partnerships** and benefits from robust local community engagement, including among state and local elected leaders from [all fifty states](#). **Refugees revitalize communities**, and their economic contributions far outweigh government expenditures on initial resettlement and mid- to long-term integration. From 2005 to 2019, refugees [contributed](#) a staggering [\\$123.8 billion more than they cost](#) in government expenditures.

Refugee resettlement not only is a lifeline for displaced people, but also helps to stabilize some of our key strategic allies and front-line refugee hosting states in countries and regions that are disproportionately affected by forced displacement. **Refugee resettlement often supports the stability of U.S. allies working in partnership with the United States to counter forces that harm U.S.**

interests and the principles that we hold dear. Continuing to welcome refugees sends a strong message to groups that want to sow havoc and fear that the United States remains a leading force for stability and liberty in the world.

Overall, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) [reports](#) that more than 123 million people are displaced from their homes as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and events seriously disturbing public order, such as climate-induced displacement. This number includes 73.5 million people who have been displaced within their own country, 36.8 million refugees, 8.4 million people seeking asylum, and at least 5.9 million people who are in need of international protection. It is [projected](#) that there will be 2.5 million refugees in need of resettlement by FY 2026. The availability of durable solutions for forcibly displaced people is being far outpaced by displacement crises.

Under USRAP, resettlement is offered to only a small fraction of the world's displaced population. In past years, refugee populations have been prioritized under the program because they continue to be at risk of harm and experience deprivation in first countries of asylum, or because they have direct ties to the United States. The first Trump administration significantly dismantled our nation's capacity to welcome refugees. Following a massive effort to rebuild the U.S. resettlement program in the years that followed, President Trump is now seeking to annihilate the program to prevent its return, wrongfully twisting the program into something that excludes most (if not all) of those most in need of its protection – to the detriment of the country, our moral sense of justice, and our local communities. We reject any efforts to tarnish and diminish USRAP and call on the administration to immediately restore refugee resettlement for the most at-risk, and especially all those in the USRAP pipeline who have been stranded.

We call attention to particular populations of concern and in need of urgent assistance and resettlement, such as: Rohingya refugees fleeing genocide in Burma; Sudanese refugees fleeing [Sudan's](#) unprecedented hunger and displacement as war continues; [Ethiopian refugees](#) displaced by complex internal crises and ethnic tensions; [Eritrean refugees](#) fleeing political repression; women, children, and ethnic minorities from the [Democratic Republic of Congo](#) displaced by ongoing armed conflict; political dissidents and victims of religious persecution fleeing Central American countries like [Nicaragua](#), former Soviet Union countries, and the Middle East; at-risk Afghans who face [persecution](#) (by the Taliban) if returned, such as Afghan women and girls, ethnic and religious minorities, and Afghans who had worked with the U.S. government or military; [unaccompanied refugee minors](#); [family reunification](#) cases; [LGBTQI+ refugees](#); Venezuelans fleeing rampant violence and worsening displacement in [Venezuela](#); those who continue to flee the ongoing Russian invasion of [Ukraine](#); and a growing number of people fleeing [China](#).

It is imperative that Congress holds the administration accountable to fulfill its legal responsibilities under the Refugee Act of 1980 and to set a refugee admissions goal of 125,000 for FY 2026 – while defending congressional appropriations and federal investments to fully restore refugee processing, admissions, and access to basic healthcare, nutrition assistance, and social services.

Thank you for your swift attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

National

#AfghanEvac
Afghan-American Community Organization
Afghans For A Better Tomorrow
African Communities Together
African Elected Leaders in. America
African Human Rights Coalition
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
American Humanist Association
Center for Engagement and Advocacy in the Americas (CEDA)
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Church World Service
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Coalition on Human Needs
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Freedom Network USA
Friends Committee on National Legislation
GirlForward
Haitian Bridge Alliance
HIAS
Human Rights First
Indivisible
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
International Rescue Committee
Justice in Motion
MPower Change Action Fund
National Council of Jewish Women
National Partnership for New Americans
Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration
Rainbow Railroad
Refugee Advocacy Lab
Refugee Congress
Refugee Council USA
Refugees International
The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
Upwardly Global
USAHello
VECINA
Welcoming America

State & Local

African Community Center, Denver, CO
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL), CA

Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency, Charlotte, North Carolina
Center for Immigrant and Refugee Advancement, Omaha, NE
Chicago Refugee Coalition, Chicago, IL
Dorcas International Institute of RI, Rhode Island
Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Frontera Federation, Texas
Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef), California
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, Maine
International Council for Refugees and Immigrants, Omaha, NE
International Institute of New England, Massachusetts and New Hampshire
Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness & Advocacy Network, Iowa
JAMAAT - Jews and Muslims and Allies Acting Together, Virginia/Maryland/DC
Jewish Family and Community Services of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
JFCS East Bay, California
Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Massachusetts
MetroWest Legal Services, Massachusetts
Miami Valley Immigration Coalition, Dayton, Ohio
New American Pathways, Georgia
Oasis Legal Services, California
Patchwork Indy, Indiana
Peoples Unitarian Universalist Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
REACT DC, Inc., Alexandria, Virginia
Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado, Colorado
Refugee Action Network, Chicago, IL
Refugee Dream Center, Providence, Rhode Island
Refugee Education & Adventure Challenge (REACH), Chicago, IL
RefugeeOne, Chicago, IL
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network, Colorado
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN), Bay Area and Central Valley, CA
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Colorado
TechNation, Denver, Colorado
The Five Pillars Organization, Northern California
The Five Pillars Organization, California
United African Organization, Illinois
Voices for Utah Children, Utah