



The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE



ECDC



HIAS



**REFUGEE
COUNCIL
USA**



November 4, 2019

In the midst of a significant onslaught of distressing news about the future of the refugee resettlement program in the United States, Refugee Council USA - a coalition of 25 organizations working to support and welcome refugees - and refugee communities across the US offer this open letter in solidarity and with compassion for refugees around the world who are waiting to be resettled to safety.

Refugees resettled in the US play a significant role in many of our organizations, and we are devastated by the blows that the administration has made to this country's historic commitment to those seeking refuge and asylum. The US has a long history of opening its doors to refugees and for those of us who are new Americans, we've worked hard to give back to the communities that welcomed us. Years later, as we have accomplished our goals and become integral members of our community - as neighbors, classmates, co-workers, and even your elected representatives - we are dismayed that this administration fails to recognize the contributions of refugees that are making America great.

We know that many of you are still waiting for a solution after years of living with fear, food insecurity, uncertainty about the future, and perhaps a lack of hope. Our hearts are with you. Many of us have experienced the relief that comes with resettlement, and, as witnesses to the power of this experience, we will not sit idle. We pledge to continue our efforts to keep America's doors open. As a united community of advocates, Refugee Council USA wants you to know that you are not alone. We stand alongside you, and proclaim that refugees are always welcome here.

Signed,

- Center for Victims of Torture
- Church World Service
- The Episcopal Church
- Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.
- The Exodus Institute
- HIAS
- International Refugee Assistance Project
- International Rescue Committee
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
- Migration and Refugee Services/USCCB
- Refugee Congress
- Refugee Council USA
- USAHello
- World Relief