

September 8, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

The 100 undersigned organizations – representing national, state, and local groups dedicated to upholding humanitarian protection and the rights of all forcibly displaced persons – urge you to restore, strengthen, and expand the US refugee resettlement program. Specifically, **we urge you to set the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Presidential Determination (PD) at 200,000 by October 1st, and hold meaningful consultations with Congress before the end of FY22 in support of rebuilding the US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). Throughout FY23 we urge you to meaningfully invest in rebuilding the resettlement infrastructure to increase refugee arrivals in the US.**

The world faces its greatest ever displacement crisis, with over [100 million people](#) across the globe having been forced to flee their homes, including over [31 million refugees](#). We have welcomed the steps taken by your administration to respond to a number of acute displacement crises over the last year, including Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) and the resettlement of over 80,000 Afghans, and the launch of Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) and the commitment to welcome 100,000 displaced Ukrainians. Yet the need for broad-based humanitarian protection remains ever-growing. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees projects that over [2 million refugees](#) will be in need of resettlement in 2023 – populations that extend far beyond those to be served through OAW or U4U. Moreover, as of June 30th, only [15,100 refugees](#) were resettled in the US, accounting for 12% of the 125,000 refugee admissions goal with three months left in the fiscal year. It is imperative that the administration continue to resettle as many refugees as possible for the remainder of this fiscal year and urgently address the USRAP rebuild as we plan for the next fiscal year.

Americans' support for the emergency responses in Afghanistan and Ukraine, and the mass mobilization of resources, demonstrates the willingness and desire for the United States to resume its position as the global leader in humanitarian protection. The expansion of community and private sponsorship programs can and should go hand-in-hand with the restoration of USRAP. The refugee resettlement program was created to provide lasting protection for those who have been displaced by protracted conflicts. Since its inception in 1980, over 3 million people have found enduring safety through the resettlement program. Prioritizing the restoration and modernization of USRAP alongside complementary and supplemental sponsorship models will strengthen and secure a foundation where all forcibly displaced persons are provided the resources, services, and networks needed to thrive. Additionally, investing in USRAP will ensure that those who have been awaiting resettlement or family reunification for years will have an equitable opportunity to reach safety.

In light of the extraordinary global need, and the demonstrated capacity to expand welcome, it is imperative that your administration set a robust refugee admissions goal of 200,000 refugees for FY23, and advocate for the necessary funding to continue to re-scale the resettlement program. Our request for a topline of 200,000 refugees reflects not only the current pressing resettlement needs, but directly speaks to both the origins of the program – when the [United States resettled](#) over 207,000 refugees in 1980 – and to our current moment, in which the US government mobilized to welcome nearly 200,000

Afghans and Ukrainians outside of the resettlement program. We ask your administration to fully reinvest in USRAP as a cornerstone of our nation's humanitarian protection programs, utilize USRAP as a tool to ensure that global humanitarian needs are met with greater equity, and lead the international community in demonstrating welcome.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

National

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)
Advocating Opportunity
African Communities Together
AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION
American Civil Liberties Union
American Immigration Lawyers Association
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)
Bethany Christian Services
Blackbox Bio
Boat People SOS
Cacti, Inc.
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition
Center for Victims of Torture
CHIRLA
Church World Service
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries
Doctors for Camp Closure
Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC)
Freedom Network USA
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Haitian Bridge Alliance
HIAS
Hispanic Federation
Human Rights First
Immigration Equality
Immigration Hub
ImmSchools
InReach
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia
Islamic Relief USA
Japanese American Citizens League
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA

Justice Action Center
Kino Border Initiative
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)
Mina's List
Mormon Women for Ethical Government
MPower Change
National Council of Jewish Women
National Immigration Law Center
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
National Partnership for New Americans
Oxfam America
Project Lifeline
Quixote Center
Refugee Congress
Refugee Council USA
Refugees International
Sojourners
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Tahirih Justice Center
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
UndocuBlack.org
Union for Reform Judaism
United Church of Christ Justice and Local Church Ministries
United Stateless
USAHello
We Are All America
Welcoming America
Win Without War
Witness at the Border
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

State

The Advocates for Human Rights
Al Otro Lado
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Fellowship Southwest
The Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
New York Immigration Coalition
North Carolina Justice Center
Oasis Legal Services
OneAmerica
OPAWL - Building AAPI Feminist Leadership
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
Syrian Community Network
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition

Texas Civil Rights Project
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

Local

Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York
Central American Resource Center Of Northern CA - CARECEN SF
Coalición de Derechos Humanos
Community Health for Asian Americans
El Vínculo Hispano/The Hispanic Liaison
Interfaith Welcome Coalition - San Antonio
Justice for Our Neighbors El Paso
La Raza Community Resource Center
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA)
Migrant Center for Human Rights
Motivation Motivates
OBRA Collective
Orange County Jewish Coalition for Refugees
PJALS
USC Law - International Human Rights Clinic
WAVE Women for American Values and Ethics
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration

CC:

The Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State
The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services
The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security
Julieta Valls Noyes, Assistant Secretary of Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration
Andrea Chapman, Acting Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement