From Episcopal Migration Ministries and The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations

Love God, Love Neighbor: Episcopal Month of Action
Refugee Resettlement

Thank you for being part of Episcopal Action on Refugee Resettlement week. Even at this uniquely difficult time of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we invite individuals, churches, and partners to use this toolkit to show their support for the children, women, and men forced to flee. In honor of World Refugee Day on June 20, we lift up the courage, strength, and perseverance of refugees worldwide.

As people of faith invested in the work of welcome, we have to utilize our stories to ensure that elected officials promote and maintain our nation’s admirable tradition of refugee resettlement and implement humane and just immigration policies. Episcopal Migration Ministries and The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations invite you to join in the work of welcome through advocating for our newest neighbors.

Five Ways You Can Take Action:

1. **Prepare your statement.**
   Prepare to tell your congressional leaders 1) Who you are, 2) Why you care, 3) What you want. Sample language follows on the next page.

2. **Write to your Senators and Representative.**
   Send an **Action Alert** through the Episcopal Public Policy Network to urge your members of Congress to Co-sponsor the GRACE Act.

3. **Call your Members of Congress.**
   Amplify your advocacy by calling in addition to writing. Congressional offices track outreach from their constituents on various issues. Every action you take adds to the swell of support for legislative action. Instructions follow on the next page.

4. **Post to Social Media.**
   Social media are other important touchpoints tracked by Congressional offices. Post to Facebook and Twitter using #SupportRefugees, #WithRefugees, #EpiscopalAdvocacy, #WRD2020 and be sure to tag your Members of Congress. Sample social media post language follows on the next page.

5. **Host a Refugee Sunday.**
   This is an opportunity to celebrate and share the Church’s ministry of welcome, teach about refugee resettlement, and inspire the local community to take action in support of refugees and immigrants. Host a Refugee Sunday and share the message of welcome and hope with your community through stories, reflection, and prayer.
   Request toolkit here: [https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/emmrefugeesunday](https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/emmrefugeesunday)

**TAKE ACTION!**
Sample language for your prepared statement

I write to you as an Episcopalian and a constituent to urge your support for the GRACE Act: The Guaranteed Refugee Admissions Ceiling Enhancement Act, S.1088 & H.R.2146. The GRACE Act would set a minimum Presidential Determination (PD) on refugee admissions of 95,000 each fiscal year. The average PD between 1980 and 2017 has been 95,000. The bill would also mandate quarterly reports on refugee admissions, increasing transparency, accountability, and oversight.

This bill acknowledges the importance of the refugee resettlement program as a critical, life-saving program that offers protection to refugees around the world. Beyond its humanitarian benefits, refugee resettlement has distinct benefits for the United States and all Americans. Refugee resettlement is a tradition with strong bipartisan support and is a way the United States can live out its core values and ensure a more stable and democratic world. It is also a critical investment in economic growth as refugees meet critical needs in the United States labor market and contribute as taxpayers, consumers, and entrepreneurs.

I am concerned with the decrease in the number of refugees being resettled to the United States and urge that the United States continue its historic tradition of resettling refugees. Recent decline in resettlement numbers have had an impact on the most vulnerable - children, those with serious medical needs, those who worked with United States service members overseas and are now in danger because of their work, and religious minorities. The GRACE Act, by raising the refugee admissions number, would help advance the United States’ priorities of creating a world for liberty and freedom for all persons and thus I ask you to support it.

Call your Members of Congress
To find your Representative and Senators, visit: https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members

You will make a total of three calls.
Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224 - 3121 and ask to be connected to one of your Senators. Repeat this process for your other Senator, as well as your Representative, either conveying your message to a staffer or leaving a voicemail.

Sample social media posts
#Refugees bring their resiliency & experiences to help make our communities better. We celebrate them this #WRD2020! #EpiscopalAdvocacy #WithRefugees #SupportRefugees

As we celebrate #WRD2020, join us in making sure the US continues its welcoming legacy and resettles #refugees. #EpiscopalAdvocacy #WithRefugees #SupportRefugees

As we celebrate #WRD2020, join us in making sure the US honors its commitment to welcome the stranger. Restore the asylum system now! #EpiscopalAdvocacy #WithRefugees #SupportRefugees

TAKE ACTION!