

# World Refugee Day Advocacy Toolkit

In honor of World Refugee Day on June 20, we invite individuals, churches, and partners to use this toolkit to show their support for the children, women, and men forced to flee. We invite you to join us as 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 support refugee resettlement.

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, #WRD2021 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>

**TAKE ACTION!**



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## Sample language for your prepared statement

As an Episcopalian and your constituent, I am writing to urge you to support the U.S. Refugee Admission Program and refugees who arrive in the country through this program. The program, established in 1980, brings individuals fleeing persecution to seek safety into the United States. The Church has a long history of helping refugees that stretches from the late 1800s to the creation of the official resettlement agency, Episcopal Migration Ministries, in the 1980s. Given that the U.S. has resettled fewer refugees in recent years, the program needs your fiscal and political support to ensure that we can continue receiving the most vulnerable individuals. This support includes:

- Allocating \$4.94 billion for the Refugee and Entrant Assistance (REA) Account to provide critical initial investments in the long-term integration and economic success of new Americans, including refugees.
- Allocating \$4.12 billion for the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) to help ensure that families fleeing life-threatening situations can find temporary protection in the countries where they seek refuge.
- Working with the administration to ensure that it meets its FY2021 revised refugee admissions goal of 62,500 and expands access to the resettlement program through investments in processing, referral pathways, restoration of resettlement infrastructure, and private sponsorship.

Thank you for your consideration.

## 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 #WRD2021! #EpiscopalAdvocacy #WithRefugees #SupportRefugees

As we celebrate #WRD2021, join us in making sure the U.S. continues its welcoming legacy and resettles #refugees. #EpiscopalAdvocacy #WithRefugees #SupportRefugees

As we celebrate #WRD2021, join us in making sure the U.S. upholds the refugee admissions program! #EpiscopalAdvocacy #WithRefugees #SupportRefugees

**TAKE ACTION!**

