

# WORLD REFUGEE DAY ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

*hope away from home*



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. This year, our marking of World Refugee Day is linked to celebrations of Pride Month in June, as we provide resources and invite local communities to action through our Rainbow Initiative.

The Rainbow Initiative is a project of Episcopal Migration Ministries, created in response to an Episcopal Church General Convention resolution called D045 “On Supporting LGBTIQ+ Refugees and Asylum Seekers.” The Rainbow Initiative educates and inspires congregations and communities to advocate, pray, and engage in direct service to support LGBTQ+ forced migrants (refugees and asylum seekers). Learn more about the Rainbow Initiative: [episcopalmigrationministries.org/rainbowinitiative/](https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/rainbowinitiative/).

As people of faith invested in the work of welcome, we must use our voices to ensure that elected officials promote and maintain our nation’s tradition of refugee resettlement and implement just policies for all immigrants, including LGBTQ+ forced migrants. Episcopal Migration Ministries and The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations invite you to join in the work of welcome by advocating for our newest neighbors.

## FIVE WAYS YOU CAN TAKE ACTION:

1

### Prepare your statement.

Prepare to tell your members of Congress 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 Senators and representative to support refugee resettlement.

3

### Call your Members of Congress.

Amplify your advocacy by calling in addition to writing. 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 can be important touch-points tracked by Congressional offices. Post to Facebook and Twitter using #SupportRefugees, #WithRefugees, #EpiscopalAdvocacy, #WRD2023 and be sure to tag your Members of Congress, EMM (@EMMRefugees), and UNHCR accounts (@USAforUNHCR, @refugees, @UNHCRUSA). See sample post language on the next page.

5

### Host a Refugee Sunday.

Host a Refugee Sunday and share the message of welcome and hope with your community through stories, reflection, and prayer. For toolkit: <https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/emmrefugeesunday>



**Make a Donation to Support  
the Work of Welcome**  
[iam.ec/emm](https://iam.ec/emm)



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## Sample language for your call script

As an Episcopalian and your constituent, I am writing to urge you to support the U.S. Refugee Admissions 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 the increased need around the world and that the U.S. has resettled fewer refugees in recent years, the program needs your continued support and commitment to ensure that we can continue receiving the most vulnerable individuals. These include LGBTQ+ forced migrants, who face persecution at multiple levels.

As such, Congress must prioritize the following:

- Fulfilling our refugee resettlement goal each year. We are well below the fiscal year 2023 goal of 125,000. Congress must think creatively to establish and maintain safe and orderly humanitarian protection for refugees and to ensure people are resettled and protected without delay.
- Robust appropriations in fiscal year 2024 for refugee accounts like the Refugee Entrant Assistance (REA) Account and the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA).
- Ensuring the refugee admissions program continues to accept those most in need by recognizing the unique risks vulnerable communities around the world face and providing just and equal treatment to each group processed through the program.

## 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.

## Social media posts *\*(be sure to tag Members of Congress, EMM and UNHCR)*

#Refugees bring resiliency & experience and help make our communities better. We celebrate them this  
#WRD2023, #EpiscopalAdvocacy #WithRefugees #SupportRefugees

As we celebrate #WRD2023, join us in making sure the U.S. continues its welcoming legacy and resettles  
#refugees. #EpiscopalAdvocacy #WithRefugees #SupportRefugees



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