Friends,

As we move forward from Election Day, many of us are feeling concern and uncertainty about the future. Regardless of what side of the political aisle you identify with, this election has left many of us disheartened by the divisive, hateful rhetoric we have seen directed at immigrants, refugees and our communities as a whole. Now, as we look to the future, there are a lot of questions that remain about how policy proposals might impact our work and loved ones.

However, despite this uncertainty, one thing remains absolutely resolute - our commitment to standing with refugees, immigrants, volunteers and community supporters around the world. Below are some answers to some of the questions we have received, but there are admittedly many questions with unknown answers.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to <insert your local office contact information> or Episcopal Migration Ministries' national office at <u>emm@episcopalchurch.org</u> with questions and concerns.

• Will refugees still be resettled in the United States?

President Obama remains in office until January 20th, and refugees will continue to be resettled through that time. Resettlement should continue beyond that date as well, unless the new administration changes current policies. EMM is committed to working with the new administration to ensure that the United States meets our international commitments to address the refugee crisis. Should proposals move forward to pause, stop or weaken the refugee resettlement program, we will need everyone's help opposing such plans and lifting up support for refugee resettlement.

• I am a DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipient - what will happen to that program?

Right now, the DACA program remains current and the situation of DACA recipients should remain unchanged. After January 20th, it is possible that the new administration may end the DACA program. EMM and partners will strongly oppose such a move, and we will need everyone's help around the country to demonstrate the importance and support for this program. Please contact our offices for case specific questions and we would be happy to help.

• What are some next steps we can take to organize and protect against discriminatory actions and policies?

We need you more than ever! There are a number of ways you can get involved in organizing your community to hold the line against anti-refugee proposals and promote welcome. Create a safe space for healing in your home, congregation, neighborhood, school, etc. Educate your community about their rights and use the United We Dream hotline (1-844-363-1423) to report rights violations. Please see Refugee Council USA's advocacy toolkit and our civic engagement toolkit and sign up for <u>EPPN action</u> <u>alerts</u>. Also, feel free to contact Lacy Broemel at <u>lbroemel@episcopalchurch.org</u> with questions and for help strategizing.

• I am confused about how my family will be impacted by some of the possible policy changes of the new administration. Who can I talk with to get answers?

Your local refugee resettlement office <insert your local office contact information> will know how to best assist you with a particular case. You can also reach out to Episcopal Migration Ministries' national office at <u>emm@episcopalchurch.org</u> and we can help connect you with the best person to help answer your questions. History has proven that we are at our best when we are most welcoming. Working together, I have every confidence that regardless of what policy changes occur, our work will continue to grow and uphold our values of welcome, compassion, and resiliency.

Thank you for continuing to stand with us!

Sincerely,

(insert local office contact information)

National Resources

- DACA resources
- <u>Refugee Council USA Advocacy Toolkit</u>
- CWS Refugee Organizing Toolkit
- Sign up for EPPN Advocacy Alerts
- List of Refugee Resettlement offices by state
- Map of immigration legal service providers

Local Resources

If you or someone you know need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our EMM and affiliate offices around the United States. A list of our offices with their contact information can be found here and are also listed below.

Diocese of Arizona Refugee Focus

Diocese of Atlanta New American Pathways

Diocese of Central New York Interfaith Works of Central NY New Americans

Diocese of Chicago RefugeeOne

Diocese of Colorado Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains Episcopal Church in Connecticut Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services

Diocese of East Carolina Interfaith Refugee Ministry

Diocese of East Tennessee Bridge Refugee Services

Diocese of Florida Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida

Diocese of Idaho Agency for New Americans

Diocese of Indianapolis Exodus Refugee/Immigration Inc.

Diocese of Kansas EMM-Wichita

Diocese of Kentucky Kentucky Refugee Ministries

Diocese of Lexington Kentucky Refugee Ministries

Diocese of Los Angeles Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Services of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

Diocese of Michigan Lutheran Social Services of Michigan

Episcopal Church in Minnesota Minnesota Council of Churches

Diocese of New Hampshire Ascentria Care Alliance

Diocese of North Dakota Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota

Diocese of Olympia Diocese of Olympia Refugee Resettlement Office Diocese of Southeast Florida Episcopal Migration Ministries-Miami

Diocese of Southern Ohio Community Refugee & Immigration Services

Diocese of Texas <u>Refugee Services of Texas, Austin</u> <u>Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston</u>

Diocese of Western Massachusetts Ascentria Care Alliance

Diocese of Western Michigan Lutheran Social Services of Michigan

Diocese of Western New York Journey's End Refugee Services