



**episcopal**  
MIGRATION MINISTRIES  
815 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10017



**STAND**  
To Support Refugees



*“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25:35)*

Dear Clergy or Lay Leader:

We are writing to you *with an urgent appeal* as the Episcopal Church’s ministry among some of the most vulnerable children, women and men on earth is under threat. In this time of crisis, we ask that you share information about Episcopal Migration Ministries *Stand to Support Refugees* campaign with your congregation.

It is a terrible reality that there are over 65 million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons worldwide - the highest level ever recorded. **Out of over 21 million refugees - people who have fled their homes, schools, careers to escape war, violence, or persecution - over half are children.**

Since the 1930’s, when local parishes aided families fleeing Nazi Europe, the Episcopal Church has maintained a strong history of *“welcoming the stranger.”* In partnership with the U.S. government, today Episcopal Migration Ministries is *one of only nine national agencies* that resettle refugees in this country. **The work of this public-private partnership is made possible because of a network of affiliate agencies, professionals, and volunteers. Now our ability to continue this life-saving work is in danger.**

The President’s announced intent to temporarily suspend the resettlement program and cut the number of refugees allowed entry into the United States this year by more than half has far reaching implications for our network of ministry. Nearly all – approximately 99.5% – of Episcopal Migration Ministries’ funding comes from the federal government and is tied directly to an active and ongoing resettlement of refugees. **Because of the suspension and other policy changes, that funding is being slowed – and cut.** Without funding, the infrastructure for this ministry may well collapse. **If we want to have a strong, vibrant network through which to resettle refugees into a place of safety and opportunity, we must act now.**

**The Episcopal Church has already begun to respond in a bold way to this need.** In February, Executive Council approved \$500,000 of emergency funding to help bridge the gap until the end of the year. Several congregations and dioceses have ramped up their outreach and advocacy efforts regarding refugees. And countless individuals and groups have made unsolicited contributions to this lifesaving ministry.

**Now, we need your help to ensure refugees are welcomed to a place of safety and opportunity. Please help us spread the word about the *Stand to Support Refugees* campaign, and invite parishioners, friends, and colleagues to make a contribution in support of this life-saving ministry.**

*Stand with Episcopal Migration Ministries. Stand to Support Refugees.*

Yours faithfully,

The Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson  
Director, Episcopal Migration Ministries