

**LIFT THE WELCOME TORCH**  
**Day of Action for Refugees, Oct. 27**  
<http://bit.ly/TorchToolkit>

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## **“Actionar” Promotion**

**WHAT:** “Lift the Welcome Torch” - a recorded program featuring community and faith partners demonstrating support for welcoming refugees, sponsored by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, We Are All America, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, and Refugee Council USA.

The program will feature short testimonies from former refugees who have made the U.S. their home, as well as faith and community leaders, calling for Congress and the Administration to recognize refugees’ contributions and recommit our country to being a beacon of hope and a lifeline for people in search of safety.

**WHEN:** October 27, 1pm ET

**WHERE:** <http://bit.ly/Oct27Refugees> (tune in to the Facebook event to watch the broadcast at 1pm ET)

**WHY:** Learn how to take action to support a more robust commitment to refugees in U.S. policy! On 10/27, a federal appeals court will hold oral arguments in a lawsuit against the Trump administration’s attempt to restrict refugee resettlements in the United States, by requiring states to affirmatively agree to accepting refugee residents (Executive Order 13888).

The lawsuit was brought by the International Refugee Assistance Project on behalf of HIAS, Church World Service, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. This hearing before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth District takes place the same week that the administration and Congress are poised to finalize refugee resettlement numbers for FY 2021. This is expected to be the lowest resettlement number in the program’s history.

## Sample Social Posts

### Facebook

On Oct. 27, refugee resettlement organizations will be back in court defending the program from the Trump administration's attacks.

Join us at 1 pm ET for an "action-ar" (action-focused webinar) to hear from refugee leaders and see what you can do to keep ensuring #RefugeesWelcome in US!

<http://bit.ly/Oct27Refugees>

[add [logo](#) as a photo or share [this post](#)]

### Twitter

On 10/27, refugee resettlement groups will be back in court defending the program against Trump admin attacks.

Join us @ 1 pm for an action-focused webinar with refugee leaders to learn what you can do to keep #RefugeesWelcome in USA!

<http://bit.ly/Oct27Refugees> #Welcome95k

[add [logo](#) as a photo or share [this post](#)]

### Instagram

On Oct. 27, refugee resettlement organizations will be back in court defending the program from the Trump administration's attacks.

Join us at 1pm ET for an action-focused webinar to hear from refugee leaders and learn what you can do to keep #RefugeesWelcome in the U.S.!

Head to the link in our bio to learn more.

[add [logo](#) as a photo and add <http://bit.ly/Oct27Refugees> to your Instagram profile]

## Calls During and Following the Actionar

### Call Your US Senators & Representative to Ask They Urge the Administration to Restore the Refugee Resettlement Program and Welcome Refugees

*Call 202-224-3121 to contact your 2 Senators and 1 Representative*

**Sample Email/Script:** "I'm a faith/community leader/refugee constituent from [CITY/TOWN], and I urge you to protect the refugee resettlement program. My values of welcome and hospitality are deeply at odds with the consistently lower refugee numbers approved over recent years, down from an average of 95,000 to this year's request for a cap of only 15,000. Refugees bring much value to our communities and churches, businesses, etc. [share how refugees support YOUR area!]-including the 176,000 serving as healthcare workers and 175,000 working in the food supply chain during COVID! *Therefore, please:*

- 1) *Ensure the President will quickly sign a refugee admissions goal for FY2021, as resettlement is currently halted until then Also,*

- 2) *Oppose the 15,000 proposed refugee cap, and instead restore our US resettlement to 95,000 per year, &*
- 3) *Establish an “other” category in this year’s admissions guidelines to allow for the most needy refugees--and the full admissions goal number--to be admitted.*

My community welcomes refugees, and I urge you to reflect the best of our nation by supporting refugee resettlement.”

Following the Actionar, please prepare now to Tweet at Your Member of Congress and Two Senators during the time of the hearing. Find their Twitter handles [here](#). You’ll find sample tweets below--so open up your twitter to get ready!

## Live Tweet During the Hearing

**WHAT:** Tweeting our support for refugees during the oral arguments in name of case.

**WHEN:** October 27, 2pm ET

**WHERE:** Watch the hearing live at 2pm on 10/27 [here](#). During that time, tweet out your support for refugees using the following samples and hashtags. Follow [@interfaithimm](#) to retweet. Use hashtag #RefugeesWelcome and #Welcome95K.

**WHY:** Tweet your support for a more robust commitment to refugees during an important federal court hearing! On 10/27, a federal appeals court will hold oral arguments in a lawsuit against the Trump administration’s attempt to restrict refugee resettlements in the United States, by requiring states to affirmatively agree to accepting refugee residents (Executive Order 13888).

The lawsuit was brought by the International Refugee Assistance Project on behalf of HIAS, Church World Service, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. This hearing before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth District takes place the same week that the administration and Congress are poised to finalize refugee resettlement numbers for FY 2021. This is expected to be the lowest resettlement number in the program’s history.

By engaging on Twitter during the hearing, we will be showing reporters, policy makers, and others that we care deeply about the refugee resettlement program and the refugees who have made this country their new home.

## Sample Posts

**Tweet at Your Member of Congress and Two Senators. Find their Twitter handles [here](#).**

*If there is no signed Presidential Determination (PD) yet, share this message:*

Refugees strengthen our communities! @Representative @Senator1 @Senator2 please urge the Trump administration to sign a PD on refugee admissions for FY21 immediately, welcoming 95K (the historic norm) and not restricting refugees by "type." #RefugeesWelcome #Welcome95K

As a person of faith, I stand with refugees! @Representative @Senator1 @Senator2 urge the Trump administration to sign a PD on refugee admissions immediately, welcoming 95K refugees in FY21 (the historic norm) and not restricting refugees by "type." #RefugeesWelcome #Welcome95K

By failing to set a PD on refugee admissions for FY21, our nation is abdicating its political and moral responsibilities. @Representative @Senator1 @Senator2 urge the Trump administration to sign a PD to #Welcome95K refugees this year and not to restrict refugees by "type."

*If there is a signed Presidential Determination (PD) for 15,000 refugees, share this message:*

Amidst a global displacement crisis, it's an ethical and political failure to welcome only 15K refugees in FY21. @Representative @Senator1 @Senator2, prohibit the Trump admin from limiting the refugees admitted by categorizing them. We must show hospitality to all! #RefugeesWelcome

As a person of faith, I am horrified that the U.S. will only resettle 15K refugees in FY21—a historic low. @Representative @Senator1 @Senator2, please stop the Trump admin from limiting the number of refugees admitted by categorizing them. Everyone deserves compassion!

We/I decry the decision to resettle only 15K refugees in FY21! Welcoming refugees is a bipartisan effort that the majority of Americans support, yet the U.S. is senselessly closing its doors. @Representative @Senator1 @Senator2 #RefugeesWelcome

#### **Tweet at the Trump Administration:**

.@POTUS @StateIRF @IRF\_Ambassador you must commit to #Welcome95K refugees in FY21 and to not restrict refugees by "type." With no refugee admissions goal, refugees fleeing religious persecution remain in harm's way. #RefugeesWelcome

.@SecPompeo @STATEPRM welcoming fewer than 95,000 refugees in FY21 is an abdication of U.S. leadership in the face of the worst displacement crisis in history. We must #Welcome95K refugees in FY21 and not restrict refugees by "type." #RefugeesWelcome

.@WhiteHouse, over 500 state and local officials have voiced their support for refugee resettlement: <https://welcomingrefugees2021.org>. They know that refugees make our communities better places to live. Will you join them and #Welcome95K refugees in FY21? #RefugeesWelcome

.@SecPompeo @STATEPRM @WhiteHouse resettling refugees is a critical component of U.S. foreign policy. We must embody our values as a nation and reestablish our reputation as a global leader by welcoming 95K refugees in FY21. #Welcome95K #RefugeesWelcome

## **Tweet About Refugees' Contributions to the United States:**

Refugees contribute greatly in ordinary times and have showed up for our communities during #COVID19, too, including the 176,000 refugees who serve in healthcare and 175,000 who work in our food supply chain. When we welcome refugees, we all thrive. #RefugeesWelcome

Refugees bring value and support to our communities. Right now, 176,000 refugees are serving in healthcare and 175,000 are working in our country's food supply. Hear one of their stories: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/12/us/pathologist-nursing-homes-coronavirus-testing-covid.html> #RefugeesWelcome

Every year, refugees open businesses, join our faith communities, and help revitalize the communities that welcomed them. For the benefit of all, we must continue extending hospitality to our global neighbors!

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2018/06/19/refugees-are-a-win-win-win-formula-for-economic-development> #RefugeesWelcome

Research shows that refugees:

- ➡ Start their own businesses
- ➡ Stimulate local economies
- ➡ Revitalize struggling communities
- ➡ Fill needed jobs

Slashing refugee admissions is an abdication of our moral responsibility and a serious economic mistake.

<https://immigrationforum.org/article/immigrants-as-economic-contributors-refugees-are-a-fiscal-success-story-for-america/>

## **Graphics Folder**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Z2FfxU8xzaKFnc\\_j3SnDty\\_fGGgpfozT?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Z2FfxU8xzaKFnc_j3SnDty_fGGgpfozT?usp=sharing)