

A Guide for Contacting Candidates in the 30 Days before Election Day

Same Goal. New Tactics.

With Election Day less than a month away, the goal of Vote For Welcome 2020 is vital – we must ensure that candidates in races across the country state their affirmative support for welcoming refugees and asylum seekers. The first step, as always, is to research your candidates. First, visit this [link](#) to find out who is running for office in your area. Our friends at Voice for Refuge, released [scorecards](#) you can use to learn about your elected officials' position on refugee issues. After you do your research, enact the following tactics suited for this final month. Over the next few weeks, we have the ears of candidates more than at any other point during the political process, so it's time to make our voices heard.

Tactics

- 1. Ask questions during virtual town hall meetings** Candidates are hosting townhall meetings by the minute! Find them by visiting [The Townhall Project](#) and following your candidates on social media. Here are two sample questions you can ask:
 - If elected, will you press the Administration to restore the United States' role as a global leader in refugee protection by increasing the number of refugees resettled in the U.S.?
 - What are your views on the U.S. response to asylum seekers arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border?
- 2. Send a direct message on social media** and ask them to post a message in support of refugees and asylum seekers. Sample message: *Hi {insert candidate}, do you support refugees and asylum seekers? Will you post this message to show your support? "As the United States aims to put its values and interests first, it must not forget that offering freedom from oppression is a crucible of its founding. Resettling refugees is a way that the U.S. can live out its core values and ensure a more stable and democratic world #refugeeswelcome"*
- 3. Email candidates with HIAS-provided statements** to see if they will support refugees and asylum seekers. Sample email: *Hi {insert candidate}, We are currently facing the largest refugee crisis in recorded history. Refugees and asylum seekers have been particularly impacted by Covid-19. As I have tracked this issue, it has become clear to me that candidates are not speaking publicly about refugee resettlement or our asylum system despite the current urgency. I'm reaching out to see if you will voice your support for refugees and asylum seekers. Here you can find sample posts and messages for different media platforms on [refugee resettlement](#) and [asylum](#). Thank you for your support. Warmly, {insert your name}*

Let us know if you have any questions by contacting takeaction@hias.org. We would love to support you.

HIAS, like many organizations, is a 501(c)(3) organization. We do not endorse or support any particular party, candidate, or campaign for office. The goal of this campaign is to educate candidates running in all races about refugee and asylum issues, irrespective of political party. We seek to educate future leaders - not to promote any campaign over another.