

The top half of the page features a vibrant background illustration. Two hands, one in shades of pink and red, the other in shades of teal and blue, are shown holding a glowing yellow and white globe. The background is filled with a pattern of blue and teal silhouettes of diverse people's heads. The word "HIAS" is prominently displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters at the top center.

# HIAS

## HOLIDAY CALENDAR 2019-2020/5780

### **Rosh Hashanah**

Sep. 29 – Oct. 1, 2019

### **Yom Kippur**

October 8 – 9, 2019

### **Sukkot**

October 13 – 20, 2019

### **International Human Rights Day**

December 10, 2019

### **Hanukkah**

December 22 – 30, 2019

### **Purim**

March 9 – 10, 2020

### **National Refugee Shabbat**

March 20 – 21, 2020

### **Passover**

April 8 – 16, 2020

### **Yom Ha'Shoah**

April 20 – 21, 2020

### **Shavuot**

May 28 – 30, 2020

### **Anniversary of M.S. St. Louis**

June 6, 2020

### **World Refugee Day**

June 20, 2020

### **Anniversary of 1951 UN Refugee Convention**

July 28, 2020



Welcome the stranger.  
Protect the refugee.

HIAS, the world's oldest, and only Jewish, refugee organization, rescues, resettles, and advocates for refugees so they can live in safety and with dignity. We work with refugees and asylum seekers in the United States and more than a dozen countries. We also organize and mobilize the Jewish community to respond to the global refugee crisis.

There are now more than 70 million displaced people around the world. These are the stories of three of the thousands of refugees and asylum seekers HIAS has helped in the last year.



### **NADIA, Seeking Asylum in the United States**

As a lesbian in Russia, Nadia\* experienced family abuse, a violent assault, continuous homophobic taunts and threats, and was forced to resign from her job. Nadia fled to the U.S. and filed an asylum claim through a HIAS program for refugee artists and was granted asylum just before LGBTQ Pride weekend in 2019. Today, she lives in New York City with her girlfriend and works in a catering business while she rebuilds her career.



### **KASSIM, Refugee Resettled in the United States**

"When I was a kid, the Congo was paradise," Kassim said. "We had life. I had a dream to be someone important." As war ravaged the country, Kassim and his brothers ran towards the forest. They would never see their parents again. After Kassim's brother was murdered by a rival ethnic group, he crossed into Uganda. Resettled to the U.S. in 2018, Kassim has become an advocate for refugee rights, sharing his story on Capitol Hill in the hope that something positive will come from his trauma.



### **SANDRA, Seeking Asylum in Ecuador**

Sandra\* and her family fled Colombia in 2017 after receiving death threats from paramilitary groups. They ended up in Ecuador and filed for asylum. Though Sandra was a nurse and her husband a businessman, they struggled initially. With HIAS' help, they launched a business making eye-catching medical uniforms. "Leaving my country was something I never imagined," Sandra said. "When we started our business, everything seemed difficult but improved as time went by. Feeling safe with my family is priceless."

Visit [hias.org/take-action](https://hias.org/take-action) for ways to take action for refugees and asylum seekers all year round.

*\*Pseudonyms used to protect client identity.*