



CANDIDATE EDUCATION

Directly contact candidates, both new candidates and incumbents, who are running for office in your area, to ask one simple question: will you stand up for refugees, if elected? Ask them to publicly state their support for refugees through a statement, social media, or another platform. You can do this by setting up a meeting, speaking with them at a public event, and more. To learn more, review the HIAS Vote for Welcome Toolkit at www.hias.org/election-campaign.

WHAT TO DO?

When you go into a meeting with candidates or their staff, you want to ensure that you are prepared to make the case for refugee resettlement. Use the following talking points as a guide for your meeting:

TOPLINE TALKING POINTS

1. Today, we are facing the worst refugee crisis in recorded history. There are over 68 million displaced people in the world, with over 25 million refugees worldwide. Fewer than 1% of refugees will ever be resettled to a third country.
2. This year, the Trump administration announced a refugee admissions goal of 30,000, the lowest in the 38-year history of the U.S. refugee resettlement program. Since the program's inception, the United States has set an average refugee admissions goal of 95,000 refugees and has resettled up to 200,000 refugees in certain years.
3. Last year, in the 2018 Fiscal Year (October 1 2017 - September 30 2018), despite the Administration's refugee admissions goal of 45,000, the U.S. only resettled about 20,000 refugees.
4. The resettlement program is a small, life-saving program. It protects the most vulnerable refugees and helps to unite families fractured by forced migration. It serves as a powerful foreign policy tool for the United States.

ASKS FOR CANDIDATES:

We urge you to go on the record in support of refugee resettlement in your state/district/community.

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES ON REFUGEES

1. What are your views on the U.S. response to the global refugee crisis today?
2. How do you feel about refugee resettlement in our community?
3. 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.?

WHERE TO GO?

HOST OR ATTEND A CAMPAIGN EVENT

Attend a campaign event. These are great opportunities to raise your hand and ask candidates the questions listed above, to encourage them to be on the record about refugees. Bring signs or wear hats or stickers to visibly show your support for refugees.

- Town hall meetings
- Candidate forums
- Debates

VOTE!

INCREASING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: VOTER REGISTRATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY

If you are interested in other ways to encourage civic engagement in your community this election cycle, you can volunteer as a poll watcher or worker, or help register new voters.