



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

A Yom Kippur Call to Action in Support of the World's Refugees

Today, as we reflect on our lives and the world in which we live, our thoughts turn to the world's refugees – people whose faces we see now in the daily news.

In this moment, we recall the familiar refrain:

*“U'teshuvah, u'tefilah, u'tzedakah ma'avirin et-ro'ah ha'gezeirah –
Repentance, prayer, and charity temper judgement's severe decree.”*

U'teshuvah.

We **return** to the story of the Jewish people. Persecuted for our faith, we fled from Pharaohs, crusaders, and communist regimes.

We **turn** our attention and open our eyes to the stories of those now persecuted in Syria and in the Congo, in Eritrea and in Colombia, who have fled their homes in search of protection.

Let us **answer** their cries.

U'tefilah.

We **pray** that they will find places of refuge and, ultimately, the opportunity to live in freedom.

We **pray** that we will have the moral courage and perseverance not to turn away from their plight but instead to turn toward them with an open heart.

U'tzedakah.

So let us **take action** and ask our government to be a leader amongst the world's nations.

Let us **give generously** so that those who have fled have access to food and shelter, education and medical care.

Let us **commit** to helping them rebuild their lives in safety and with dignity.

This Yom Kippur, may our *teshuvah*, *tefilah*, and *tzedakah* call us to help change the course of history so that all people can live free from fear and have a place to call home.