



Asking Congress to Protect Refugees

President Trump's restriction on refugee resettlement is a betrayal of American values and American leadership. HIAS is asking all Welcome Campaign congregations to help to send a powerful message to elected officials all across the country.

We encourage you to use the attached letter in your communities.

Gather as many signed copies from your congregation as you can. We encourage you to do this at meetings, events, or programs, as you see fit. To find your congressional district and representatives, visit <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members>.

There are two options for delivering the letter.

1) In-District Meetings

An in-district meeting is typically a meeting between 5-10 people and the staff of the local district office of your Member of Congress. Through such a meeting, you can deliver the letters, and express the importance of congressional support for refugees. Imagine the impact of dozens of congregations all across the country delivering hundreds, if not thousands, of signed letters from the Jewish community!

HIAS will offer trainings on how to hold an in-district meeting with Congress on **March 1st, 4pm EST**. We will provide resources and talking points for groups interested in this approach.

2) Mailing Letters

If you do not plan to deliver the letters in person, you can mail the letters to HIAS, and we will deliver them for you. The address is HIAS c/o Advocacy Team, 1300 Spring Street, 5th floor. Silver Spring, MD 20910.

For 135 years, HIAS has worked for the safety and dignity of refugees, and we intend to fight harder than ever. We are honored to have your synagogue as a partner in this effort, and will keep you updated on the most important tactics and strategies for effectively advocating. Donald Trump's politics of fear run contrary to the values of [more than 300 Welcome Campaign congregations across the country](#), the [1,900 American rabbis in 48 states](#), and our [local affiliates in 22 cities](#), who work every day to make sure America remains a place which welcomes those seeking safety.

This is the time to act. Our representatives must hear how strongly we condemn this order and that we expect them strenuously oppose it.

If you have questions or to sign up for the training calls please be in touch with Rebecca Kirzner, HIAS Director of Campaigns, at rebecca.kirzner@hias.org.



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

Dear _____,

I'm a constituent from _____ and I am writing in protest of President Trump's executive orders preventing refugees from finding safety in this country.

The refugee crisis is now larger than any point in human history. Over 65 million people have been displaced due to conflict and violence. The U.S. government must respond with urgency and compassion for the world's refugees. We can do that while also maintaining the highest levels of security for our country. It is not an either/or situation.

I urge you to use your unique leadership role to oppose President Trump's recent executive order. Restricting refugee resettlement is a betrayal of American values and American leadership. Depriving refugees of safe haven scapegoats vulnerable human beings and does nothing to make us safer. It confuses the victims with the horrors they are fleeing.

My community, _____, has made a commitment to take action for refugees through the HIAS Welcome Campaign.

As Jews, the global refugee crisis resonates deeply with our own history and experience. Time and time again, Jews were refugees, fleeing violence and persecution. We know what it looked like for this country to provide opportunity and welcome, and we know what it looked like for the doors to slam shut in our greatest hour of need.

Guided by my people's history and the Jewish value of "welcoming the stranger," I urge you to keep America's doors open to refugees.

Name: _____

Address: _____

State/City/ZIP: _____