

August 15, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you as 36 national Jewish organizations to urge you to set a refugee admissions ceiling of at least 75,000 for fiscal year (FY) 2019. We have joined together to ask you to continue the life-saving United States Refugee Admissions Program.

Our country has long been a leader in providing protection and assistance to those fleeing persecution and violence. In fact, the American Jewish community owes its existence to the times in our nation's history when the U.S. welcomed refugees from all national and religious backgrounds. It is because of our history as refugees, our biblical commandment to "welcome the stranger," and our longstanding involvement as a community in resettling and welcoming refugees, that we call on you now to give today's refugees a chance to rebuild their lives in safety and freedom in the United States.

We are in the midst of the worst refugee crisis in recorded history, with 68.5 million people displaced, 25.4 million of whom are refugees. In this critical moment, the U.S. government must do more—not less—to support refugees, and resettlement is a key component of our international response to this crisis.

Refugees resettled in the U.S. today exemplify what it means to be American. Refugees are twice as likely than those born in this country to invest in and start businesses in their communities, which not only makes them job creators, but has helped to reinvigorate communities across this country. They also contribute billions to the U.S. economy, and millions in tax dollars for state and local governments. These families purchase homes, invest in their children's education, and become civically engaged, all in pursuit of the same American dream that many of our own families sought.

A Presidential Determination of at least 75,000 will not only save lives and strengthen American communities, it will also demonstrate our strength and leadership to the world. As Jewish organizations from across the country that stand with refugees, we urge you to support a safe and strong U.S. refugee admissions program that represents the best of America.

Agudath Israel of America  
Ameinu  
American Conference of Cantors  
American Jewish Committee (AJC)  
American Jewish World Service  
Anti-Defamation League  
Association of Reform Jewish Educators  
Avodah  
B'nai B'rith International  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.  
HIAS  
J Street  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Labor Committee  
Jewish Women International  
Jewish World Watch  
Keshet  
Men of Reform Judaism  
National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
NFTY  
Orthodox Union  
Rabbinical Assembly  
Reconstructing Judaism  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Right Now: Advocates for Asylum Seekers in Israel  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
The Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
The Workmen's Circle  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism  
Uri L'Tzedek: The Orthodox Social Justice Movement  
Women of Reform Judaism