

August 7, 2019

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the 162 undersigned national, state and local Jewish organizations and institutions below, we write to express our shared grave concern about recent reports that the Administration is considering resettling zero refugees in the United States in FY2020. As Jewish organizations, we do not write today to convey our collective views on broader immigration policy, but we are committed to welcoming those fleeing violence, persecution, and war. We urge the United States to meet the resettlement admissions goal of 30,000 this fiscal year and return the Presidential Determination to historic norms for fiscal year 2020.

We are in the midst of the worst global refugee crisis since WWII. The global refugee population reached a record 25.9 million in 2018. Yet the Administration continues to cut its refugee resettlement admission targets and prevent those already approved to resettle in the United States from actually doing so. As a result, people fleeing for their lives with their families cannot find safety here.

The United States has historically distinguished itself as a beacon of hope and as a safe haven for those who most need it. For nearly 40 years, the refugee admissions target averaged 95,000 per year, with actual admissions averaging 80,000 refugees per year. Despite this, the Administration set the admissions ceiling to a historic low of 30,000 refugees in FY19. Furthermore, the U.S. fell behind Canada in 2018 as the top resettlement country, settling only 22,491 refugees. Resettling zero refugees in the U.S. in FY2020 would effectively gut the refugee resettlement program, violate our values as Jews and Americans, and abdicate the American promise of freedom and opportunity.

These actions – turning our backs on people fleeing for their lives – defy the proud promise indelibly inscribed on the Statute of Liberty. As Jews, we know all too well what happens when people fleeing for their lives have nowhere to turn. Our parents or grandparents, neighbors or community members once faced a similarly callous and unwelcoming world, with fatal consequences. The Jewish community has a particular moral responsibility that compels our commitment to welcoming refugees.

We urge the Department of State, in partnership with the other implementing agencies, to restore our country's refugee admissions cap to at least 95,000 for FY2020. The values of our nation and the safety and well-being of tens of thousands of refugees and their families depend on it.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:
ACC (the American Conference of Cantors)

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League)
Agudath Israel of America
Ameinu
American Jewish World Service
Avodah
B'nai B'rith International
Cantors Assembly
CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis)
Foundation for Ethnic Understanding
Goldtree Training
Habonim Dror North America
HIAS
International Rabbinic Fellowship
J Street
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Women International
Jewish World Watch
Keshet
Men of Reform Judaism
NCJW (National Council of Jewish Women)
NCSEJ
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
New Jewish Outreach
Orthodox Union
Rabbinical Assembly
Reconstructing Judaism
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Society for Humanistic Judaism
The Jewish Federations of North America
Union for Reform Judaism
Uri L'Tzedek
Women of Reform Judaism
Women's Rabbinic Network
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Local and State Organizations and Institutions:

Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, Bethesda, Maryland
Adath Jeshurun Congregation, Minnesota
Adath Jeshurun Hesed Committee, Minnesota
Beit Haverim, Oregon
Bet Tzedek Legal Services, California
Beth Ami - Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, Colorado
Beth El Temple, Pennsylvania
Beth Israel of Ocala, Florida
Beth Israel Sinai, Wisconsin

Beth Sholom Synagogue, Tennessee
Buffalo JCRC, New York
Central Reform Congregation, Missouri
Charleston Jewish Family Services, South Carolina
Charleston Jewish Federation, South Carolina
Cincinnati Jewish Community Relations Council, Ohio
Coalition for Jewish Learning – Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Community Relations Council of the Columbia Jewish Federation, South Carolina
Community Shul of Montecito and Santa Barbara, California
Congregation B'nai Amoona, Missouri
Congregation Beth Abraham, New York
Congregation Beth Adam South Florida Center for Humanistic Judaism, Florida
Congregation Beth Israel, Oregon
Congregation Beth Torah, Texas
Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, Massachusetts
Congregation Kol Shofar, California
Congregation Kolot Chayeinu, New York
Congregation Micah, Tennessee
Congregation Mount Sinai, New York
Congregation Shaare Emeth, Missouri
Congregation Shalom, Wisconsin
Congregation Torat Emet, Ohio
Detroit Center for Civil Discourse, Michigan
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition, New York
Havurah Shalom, Oregon
Hill Havurah, Washington, D.C.
Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council, Indiana
JCC Grannie Group of Akron, Ohio
JCFS Chicago, Illinois
JEVS Human Services, Pennsylvania
Jewish Center for Justice, California
Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR), Connecticut
Jewish Community Partners, Memphis, Tennessee
Jewish Community Relations Bureau, AJC, Kansas
Jewish Community Relations Council of Colorado
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix, Arizona
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, Maryland
Jewish Community Relations Council of Louisville, Kentucky
Jewish Community Relations Council of Springfield, Illinois
Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis, Missouri
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Florida
Jewish Community Relations Council, Greater Boston, Massachusetts
Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC – Detroit, Michigan
Jewish Educational Alliance, Georgia
Jewish Family & Career Services, Kentucky
Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay, California

Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis, Minnesota
Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) Pittsburgh
Jewish Family Service Houston, Texas
Jewish Family Service of Dallas, Texas
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, California
Jewish Family Service of the Desert, California
Jewish Family Services of Delaware
Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte, North Carolina
Jewish Family Services of San Diego
Jewish Family Services of Seattle
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley, California
Jewish Family Services, Columbus, Ohio
Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Relations Committee of Greater Santa Barbara,
California
Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee
Jewish Federation of Chicago, Illinois
Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest, New Jersey
Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, Connecticut
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Oregon
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey
Jewish Federation of Reading, Pennsylvania
Jewish Federation of Springfield, Illinois
Jewish Federation of Tulsa, Oklahoma
Jewish Vocational Service (JVS Boston), Massachusetts
JEWISHcolorado, Colorado
JHSUM, Minnesota, Minnesota
Kol HaNeshamah, Washington
Kol Shalom, Oregon
Leo Baeck Temple, California
Livingston Celebrates Israel, New Jersey
Massachusetts Board of Rabbis, Massachusetts
Memphis Jewish Federation, Tennessee
Mid-Kansas Jewish Federation, Kansas
Milwaukee Jewish Day School, Wisconsin
Mishkan Chicago, Illinois
Mount Zion Temple, Minnesota
Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee, New York
Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable, Tennessee
National Council of Jewish Women, Pennsylvania
NCJW Arizona Section
NCJW Austin Section
NCJW California State Policy Advocates
NCJW Cleveland Section
NCJW Greater Dallas Section

NCJW Michigan Section
NCJW Minnesota Section
NCJW Sarasota-Manatee Section
NCJW South Cook Section
NCJW St. Louis Section
NCJW Texas State Policy Advocates
NCJW, Louisville Section, Kentucky
Rockdale Temple, Ohio
Savannah Jewish Federation, Georgia
Secular Humanist Jewish Circle Tucson, Arizona
Shir Tikvah Congregation, Minnesota
South Florida Zionesses, Florida
Temple Beth Am, New York
Temple Beth Sholom, Florida
Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo, New York
Temple B'rith Kodesh, New York
Temple Chaverim of Plainview, New York
Temple De Hirsch Sinai, Washington
Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills, California
Temple Emeth, Teaneck, New Jersey
Temple Israel, Tennessee
Temple Shaaray Tefila, New York City, New York
Temple Shalom, Texas
The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation
The Temple, Congregation Ohabai Sholom, Tennessee
Tiferet Israel Congregation, Texas