

April 27, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

The recent chemical attack on Syrians, including innocent children and babies, is a heartbreaking reminder of the urgent need for a humanitarian response to the Syrian crisis. Sharing your sense of horror over the attack, the undersigned organizations urge you to increase humanitarian support for Syrian refugees who have fled to neighboring countries and to help the most vulnerable with increased resettlement through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). The U.S. humanitarian strategy must do more to help protect the millions of children and families displaced by this devastating conflict.

Since the beginning of the Syrian civil war in March 2011, over five million Syrians have run for their lives and sought refuge in neighboring countries. Another six million people have been displaced inside of Syria. For six long years, Syrians have fled chemical weapons attacks like the one the world recently witnessed, as well as barrel bombs and ISIS's brutality. Millions of refugees are living in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon, testing the infrastructure of the U.S.'s regional allies, while the U.S. has only welcomed a few thousand Syrian refugees.

The USRAP was created to help the most vulnerable refugees, like those fleeing chemical attacks from Syria. U.S. policies should not shut the door on Syrian refugees when they need protection the most. It is tragically clear that the Syrian civil war is not close to an end. Addressing the crisis in Syria requires a comprehensive strategy, including protection for all refugees and increased resettlement for those most vulnerable refugees who cannot go back home.

America has always been a beacon of hope for those fleeing persecution, and the compassion of Americans extends to those innocent civilians we witnessed suffer the effects of chemical weapons in Khan Sheikhoun. We must stay true to our tradition and values by continuing to welcome refugees into our communities and increasing humanitarian support for Syrians who have fled to neighboring countries.

Thank you for your consideration to this important matter.

Sincerely,

ADRA International
American Jewish Committee (AJC)
Anti-Defamation League
Church World Service
EPIC: Education for Peace in Iraq Center
Handicap International
HIAS
Human Rights First
Institute for Policy Studies, New Internationalism Project
International Refugee Assistance Project
International Rescue Committee

Islamic Relief USA
J Street
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish World Watch
Life for Relief and Development
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees
National Council of Jewish Women
Niskanen Center
Rabbinical Assembly
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College/Jewish Reconstructionist Communities
RefugePoint
Relief International
STAND: The Student-led Movement to End Mass Atrocities
The Center for Victims of Torture
The Episcopal Church
The Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Union for Reform Judaism
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
Win Without War
Women's Refugee Commission

CC:

The Honorable Secretary Rex Tillerson
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Secretary John F. Kelly
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Ambassador Nikki R. Haley
Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017