



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

Speak Out for Refugees: Contact Your Member of Congress!

It is a critical time to raise our voices in support of increased action and leadership to alleviate the Syrian refugee crisis. If you have not already signed HIAS's petition to President Obama, you can do so here: <http://support.hias.org/site/PageNavigator/AskthePresidenttoTakeBoldLeadershipforSyrianRefugees.html>.

As Americans, the best way to make an impact on the refugee crisis is by making sure that our government does their part. On September 20, Secretary of State Kerry announced that the U.S. would make a nominal increase in our refugee admissions ceiling – to 85,000 refugees in 2016 and 100,000 refugees in 2017. This is a good first step, but is far from the bold leadership that this humanitarian crisis warrants. HIAS, along with the other organizations that comprise Refugee Council USA are calling on the U.S. to **resettle 100,000 Syrian refugees *over and above* our current ceiling**.

While it will be up to the President to decide whether to increase the US resettlement numbers, it is Congress that needs to fund that effort. The President needs to know he has congressional support behind him.

Congressional offices log the phone calls that they receive on any given topic. When you make a phone call, you are making sure that they understand what issues matter to their constituents. Thank you for making a phone call today!

Instructions:

- 1) Call or write your Member of Congress.
- 2) Find out who your Member of Congress here: <http://www.house.gov/htbin/findrep?ZIP>.
- 3) If you are making a call, use the Congressional Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to the office of your Member of Congress.
- 4) Use the Talking Points below to make your case, in writing or on the phone.

Talking Points:

- 1) I am concerned and alarmed about the Syrian refugee crisis. I appreciate that we will be increasing the amount of refugee resettlement this year, but I want to see us do even more to help the most vulnerable refugees in this moment of crisis.
- 2) I am specifically advocating for the United States to resettle 100,000 Syrian refugees in the next fiscal year, in addition to the presidential determination for global refugee admissions. I also urge the U.S. government to support humanitarian aid to the region and to make the resolution of the conflict in Syria a top priority.
- 3) It is because of my Jewish values and my Jewish history (*If relevant: include the story of your family or your personal story*) that I advocate for refugees.