The Episcopal Church Welcomes Refugees

Episcopal Youth Event
Oklahoma City, July 11, 2017

Allison Duvall & Kendall Martin
God our Creator: We ask for your loving presence and for your peace to be with refugees in our local communities and around the world. Be with all who are in fear. Be with those whose lives and livelihoods are under threat, and whose religious freedoms are being compromised. Be with us as we strive to enact your will in our welcome and support of refugees. Be with those in positions of leadership, that their decisions may bend toward peace and not division, and that they might realize the power they hold to do justice. Give us all strength and courage. Equip and empower us to be witnesses to your love – as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and bearers of hope, especially for those seeking refuge. In your Holy name we pray. Amen.
Lampedusa Migrant Boat Capsizes

Photo: EyeVine, Mirror UK – Lampedusa Migrant Boat Capsizes
BBC News: Migrant crisis: How Lampedusa memorial reached British Museum
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The Lampedusa Cross in the British Museum
The Episcopal Church’s
*Lampedusa Cross*
Matthew 25:34-36

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”
LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR: The Episcopal Church Welcomes Refugees
Opening Prayer

Facts & Stories graphic
Every minute
24 people are displaced

Source: UNHCR / 20 JUNE 2016
refugee: a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. Faced with life-threatening circumstances, refugees have no choice but to flee, leaving behind their home and community, family, and friends.
Definitions

Refugee

Asylum-seeker

Internally displaced persons (IDP’s)
Refugee-producing
Refugee hosting
Refugee resettlement
Internally Displaced Persons

IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, including persons in an IDP-like situation

A country is listed if it features among the top-5 per population group. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
More than half (54%) of all refugees worldwide came from just three countries: the Syrian Arab Republic (4.9 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million), and Somalia (1.1 million).
Map 1  Populations of concern to UNHCR by category | end-2015

Refugees, including persons in a refugee-like situation

Number of persons
- 5,000,000
- 1,000,000
- 100,000

Countries with high populations of concern:
- Turkey
- Lebanon
- Pakistan
- Islamic Rep. of Iran
- Ethiopia
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT 101

Refugee Populations

TOP 10 REFUGEE HOSTING COUNTRIES IN 2015

- **TURKEY**: 2,541,352
- **LEBANON**: 1,070,854
- **PAKISTAN**: 1,561,162
- **JORDAN**: 664,118
- **IRAN**: 979,437
- **CHAD**: 369,540
- **DRC**: 383,095
- **ETHIOPIA**: 736,086
- **UGANDA**: 477,187
- **KENYA**: 553,912

By end of 2015, refugees resided in 169 countries or territories.

Half of the top 10 refugee-hosting countries are now located in sub-Saharan Africa, with four of them being least developed countries.

With 2.54 million refugees in its territory, Turkey remained the country hosting the largest number of refugees by the end of 2015.

Source: Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2015, UNHCR
You have to understand... no one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land.

Warsan Shire, British-Somali Poet
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT 101

Durable Solutions

- Repatriation
- Integration
- Resettlement
  - Eligible categories
    - Legal and/or Physical Protection Needs
    - Survivors of Torture and/or Violence
    - Medical Needs
    - Women and Girls at Risk
    - Family Reunification
    - Children and Adolescents at Risk
    - Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions
Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Uruguay, United States of America
United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)
Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT 101

National Refugee Resettlement Agencies

Welcome the stranger. Protect the refugee.

LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR
EMM RESETTLEMENT COMMUNITIES

Tucson, AZ          Wichita, KS          New Bern, NC
Los Angeles, CA     Louisville, KY       Wilmington, NC
Denver, CO          Lexington, KY        Fargo, ND
New Haven, CT       West Springfield, MA Grand Forks, ND
Jacksonville, FL    Troy, MI            Columbus, OH
Miami, FL           Grand Rapids, MI     Knoxville, TN
Atlanta, GA         Minneapolis, MN      Chattanooga, TN
Boise, ID           Concord, NH          Houston, TX
Chicago, IL         Buffalo, NY          Austin, TX
Indianapolis, IN    Syracuse, NY        Seattle, WA
LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR: The Episcopal Church Welcomes Refugees
Opening Prayer

FDR picture
The "St. Louis," carrying Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany, arrives in the port of Antwerp after Cuba and the United States denied it landing. Belgium, June 17, 1939. — Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris | Website of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum
Jewish-owned shop destroyed during Kristallnacht (the "Night of Broken Glass"). Berlin, Germany, November 1938.

— Wide World Photo | [Website of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum](https://www.ushmm.org/)

German soldiers burn residential buildings to the ground, one by one, during the Warsaw ghetto uprising. Poland, April 19-May 16, 1943.
— National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Md | Website of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Damascus – REUTERS/Bassam Khabieh | Syria civil war: 'Elephant rockets' kill dozens including children in Damascus suburb
“As Christians, we can only take one stand… We can act as sponsors for individuals or families [fleeing Germany]; we can sign the necessary affidavits so that these refugees can be admitted under the quota; we can give generously for their maintenance and relief; we can stand firmly in opposition to the voice of the devil heard in the anti-Semitic propaganda which is such an insidious evil in our midst; we can show a willingness to make a real sacrifice, without whimpering, as we show forth Christ’s love for these great sufferers of our day.”

– The Rt Rev. Henry W. Hobson, II, Diocese of Southern Ohio (Bishop of Southern Ohio from 1930 to 1959)
“I was a stranger and you welcomed me…”

The Episcopal Church’s Heritage of Welcome
Hundreds of people gathered for an interfaith rally in support of Syrian refugees and refugee resettlement in Charleston, West Virginia, on Nov. 15-16, 2017. Photo: Victor Urecki/Facebook. West Virginia interfaith allies rally in favor of Syrian refugees, resettlement

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me…”

Episcopalian Stand for Welcome: Charleston, West Virginia
“I was a stranger and you welcomed me…”

Episcopalians Stand for Welcome: Paris (Convocation of Churches in Europe)

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me…”

Episcopalian Stand for Welcome: Paris (Convocation of Churches in Europe)
“I was a stranger and you welcomed me…”
Episcopalians Stand for Welcome: Paris (Convocation of Churches in Europe)
Principles of Messaging: Reframing the Narrative
Perception versus Reality
Principles of Messaging: Reframing the Narrative

Key Principles of Meaningful Messages

- Perception trumps reality.
- Emotion trumps logic.
- Brevity trumps perception.
- Values trump features.
- Vibrant language trumps jargon.
- Action trumps magic words.
- Your audience trumps you.
Principles of Messaging: Reframing the Narrative

Stories Are Our Most Powerful Tools

Refugee ['refju] people who have been forced to leave their country.
Principles of Messaging: Reframing the Narrative
Stories Are Our Most Powerful Tools
Who are the “moveable middle”?

- Faith leaders
- Local elected and unelected officials
- Civic leaders
- Community leaders
- Educators
- Service providers
I. Define America

America is a nation of values, founded on an idea—that all men and women are created equal. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people have rights no matter what they look like or where they come from. So how we treat refugees reflects our commitment to the values that define us as Americans. We believe that families should stick together, that we should look out for each other, and that hard work should be rewarded. You see, its not just about what you look like or where you were born that makes you American—it's how you live your life and what you do that defines you here in this country. Refugees that come here embody these American values. They have defied all odds to leave behind discrimination, threats and even violence. Bringing your family here to build a better, safer life, is a quintessentially American thing to do.
2. Dignity of Work

Out of many cultures, our country’s strength is grounded in our ability to work together as fellow Americans. From the man down the street who cooks the food that you eat to the woman who created an innovative new business in your town, new immigrants and refugees realize the value of working hard and doing your part in exchange for the blessings of liberty. As Americans, we all do our part to contribute, and we’re all the better for having hardworking refugees as contributing members of our communities who are customers in our stores, small business owners who pay payroll taxes, and neighbors who give to local churches and charities. We all come from diverse backgrounds and many different places; we are united by a deep respect for those who work hard for a living and a shared commitment to the country we all call home. America works best when we all do our part and work together as one nation, indivisible and strong.
3. People Move

The same is true today as it has been throughout history: People move to make life better for themselves and their families. It’s hard to move – to pack up everything and go to a new place takes courage—but you do it in order to put food on the table, to provide for your family or send your kids to a decent school. New Americans who come as refugees move here for the promise of freedom and opportunity in this country, and to escape persecution and violence. People move in order to improve life, and we believe that moving to make a better life for your family is one of the hardest things – and one of the most American things – a person can do. One of the values we hold dear to our hearts is a deeply rooted belief in the freedom to be who you want to be, say what you want to say, and go where you want to go. America is supposed to be the land of the free and the home of the brave—that’s a good thing so let’s keep it that way.
What is Confirmation Bias?

“the tendency to search for, interpret, favor, and recall information in a way that confirms one’s preexisting beliefs or hypotheses, while giving disproportionately less consideration to alternative possibilities.”
Persuasion and the Power of Story: Jennifer Aaker (Future of StoryTelling 2013)
Principles of Messaging: Reframing the Narrative
Storytelling: The Impact of Youth

Photo by NHI magazine

Photo by Peyton Klein
Welcoming refugees

My grandfather was a refugee. He fled Russia where his German family had lived for more than 100 years. After swimming across a river into Poland, he walked across Europe to Hamburg, Germany, where he stowed away on a cattle boat sailing to America. Ultimately, his remaining family members starved to death in Russian camps.

Like many refugees, he was never famous or rich, but he made tremendous contributions to his new land. He got a college degree, became a minister, helped other immigrants find places to settle, and raised a family of 11 children -- all of whom got college or nursing degrees.

Like many refugees, I doubt if he could carry many records with him. Like many refugees, he could have gone elsewhere, but he had a vision of America. Like many refugees, his vision and his life helped make America great.

To make America great again, maybe welcoming refugees is the formula.

Judy Harman, Fort Worth

Top Tips:

- Be Confident.
- Be Current.
- Reference the Article.
- Know Your Facts.
- Be Concise. Stay to 250-300 Words.
- Be Contagious.
- Respond in Good AND Bad Times.
Principles of Messaging: Reframing the Narrative
Talking Points

Values

- Focus on our core values of freedom, opportunity, respect, and dignity.

American Identity

- Focus on our nation that was founded on the idea that all women and men are created equal. We are better as a nation, as a people, when we welcome our neighbors, care for each other, and help those in need.

Faith

- Focus on our call to love one another as ourselves, to welcome the stranger, and to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.”
Principles of Messaging: Reframing the Narrative
StoryTelling

#SupportRefugees

1. Assemble in groups of 3-5.
2. Take a few minutes to individually write out three reasons why you support refugees. Use the messaging techniques and talking points we covered today.
3. Come back together in your small groups and share.
4. Next, write one of your messages on the “I SupportRefugees because…” handout supplied to you. Take a selfie or have a friend take a photo for you.
5. Post your photo to social media and tag it with #SupportRefugees and #EYE17.
6. If you are willing to let EMM use your photo for future social media efforts, we invite you to email it to kmartin@episcopalchurch.org.