



**Migration &
Refugee Services**
Renewing Hope. Seeking Justice.
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

**CATHOLICS' ACTION IS URGENTLY NEEDED:
Tell Congress & Your Governor to WELCOME SYRIAN REFUGEES!**

Background: As Catholics and other people of good will are donating to help Syrian refugees abroad and volunteering to welcome them through the Catholic Charities and social service agencies across the United States, the US government has been painstakingly vetting Syrians for U.S. resettlement. The rigorous screening process is conducted over 18-24 months by refugee and security professionals through multiple interviews and multiple security checks. Unfortunately, in response to the shock of the Paris attacks, a number of US Governors recently announced that they want to stop their states from resettling Syrian refugees. Some Members of Congress have even introduced legislation that would stop refugee resettlement altogether. It is critical that public officials hear from their constituents NOW, including Catholics, as decisions are being made that could drastically impact the lives of Syrian refugees and refugee resettlement in the United States. The US has always been a haven for the world's refugees and the Catholic Church plays a large role in that welcome. The US has a safe secure resettlement process through which we should continue that life-saving tradition. Welcoming refugees is the American way and an important part of our Catholic Christian calling.

**Please take action TODAY: Call your Representative and Senators: [1-866-961-4293](tel:1-866-961-4293)
Email the House Speaker's office: dupler@mail.house.gov**

****In addition, Representative Hudson (NC-08) has drafted legislation that aims to essentially stop all Syrian resettlement. His effort is gaining traction quickly. It is very important that his office is flooded with positive calls about refugees and refugee resettlement TODAY. Please call his DC office at 202-225-3715 and/or his district office at 704-786-1612. To e-mail him please go to: <https://hudson.house.gov/email-me>****

AND if you live in these states, call your Governor!

If you live in other states, urge your Governor to support the resettlement of Syrian refugees!

- Alabama: (334) 242-7100
- Arizona: (520) 628-6580 / (602) 542-4331
- Arkansas: (501) 682-2345
- Florida: (850) 488-7146
- Georgia: (404) 656-1776
- Idaho: (208) 334-2100
- Illinois: (217) 782-0244 / (312) 814-2121
- Indiana: (317) 569-0709
- Iowa: (515) 281-5211
- Kansas: (785) 296-3232
- Louisiana: (225) 342-7015
- Maine: (207) 287-3531 / 1-855-721-5203
- Massachusetts: (617) 725-4005 / (413) 784-1200 / (202) 624-7713
- Michigan: (517) 373-3400
- Mississippi: (601) 359-3100
- Nebraska: (402) 471-2244
- Nevada: (775) 684-5670
- New Hampshire: (603) 271-2121
- New Jersey: (609) 292-6000
- New Mexico: (505) 476-2200
- North Carolina: (919) 814-2000
- Ohio: (614) 466-3555
- Oklahoma: (405) 521-2342
- South Carolina: (803) 734-2100
- Tennessee: (615) 741-2001
- Texas: (800) 843-5789 / (512) 463-1782
- Wisconsin: (608) 266-1212

When you call, tell the receptionist that as a constituent, you want to help WELCOME Syrian refugees and that you are against the calls of some governors to reject Syrian refugees.

Example: *“I’m a constituent from [City] and I support the resettlement of Syrian refugees. I urge the Senator / Representative / Governor to represent me and other constituents who seek to welcome Syrian refugees.”*

Here are some helpful points that you may want to mention, but the most important point is your story and why your community wants to welcome Syrian refugees!

- Welcoming refugees is the American way and an important part of the Catholic Christian calling.
- The US government handpicks the refugees who resettle here, and refugees are the most thoroughly vetted people to come to the United States.
- All refugees resettled in the United States undergo rigorous security screenings by the Department of Homeland Security, FBI, Department of Defense and multiple intelligence agencies, including biometric checks, forensic testing, medical screenings and in-person interviews.
- This is not an either/or situation. The United States can continue to welcome refugees while also continuing to ensure national security. We must do both.

You can also tweet your Members of Congress and your network:

.@REPRESENTATIVE, Our community is ready to welcome #Syrian #refugees.

#RefugeesWelcome #AmericaWelcomes!

Also SEE Accompanying USCCB

Statements and Talking Points