

#REFUGEES WELCOME



American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

WORLD  
REFUGEE  
DAY 2017

SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT



**AMERICAN-ARAB ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE (ADC)**

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**ADC is a civil rights and civil liberties organization, committed to defending the rights of Arab Americans and people of Arab descent, promoting their rich cultural heritage and mutual understanding.**

**ADC is the largest Arab-American grassroots civil rights organization in the United States; it is non-profit, non-sectarian and non-partisan. ADC was founded in 1980 by former U.S. Senator James Abourezk, with ADC's national office in Washington, D.C., chapters nationwide, and members in all 50 states. ADC welcomes members of all faiths, backgrounds, and ethnicities.**



# Stands with Refugees

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Today, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) is proud to celebrate World Refugee Day and to commemorate the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of refugees.

ADC is a member of *Refugees Are Welcome*, a coalition of humanitarian, religious, and non-profit organizations working together to create welcoming communities for refugees. In response to the increased attention around the Syrian refugee crisis in particular and the recent increase in hateful, anti-refugee political rhetoric, this initiative brings together diverse allies to show that communities across the United States are ready and willing to welcome all refugees.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has reported that worldwide displacement is at the highest level ever recorded totaling more than 60 million people. Millions of refugees from Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Somali are in need of a safe haven, and hundreds of thousands internally displaced in need of basic necessities to survive.

Simply increasing the number of refugees we welcome is an insufficient response to the global refugee crisis, especially if we do not have the strengthened capacity to provide the resources, services, and support to effectively resettle refugees here. It is imperative that Congress allocate funding to the Department of Health and Human Services' Refugee and Entrant Assistance, Department of State's Migration and Refugee Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development's International Disaster Assistance, and the Department of Homeland Security- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The underfunding of these refugee related accounts only exasperates the refugee crisis. We cannot ignore our way out of our obligations.

ADC is extremely dismayed and condemns the actions of politicians to push forward legislation and/or policy that would effectively shut down the resettlement of refugees. ADC urges governors to keep their states open during this humanitarian crisis and accept refugees regardless of their religion. The American public and our elected political officials in particular, must not give into fear or hate motivated bias by turning its back on our nation's fundamental commitment to refugee protection and human rights. We must reflect on our own humanity and exhibit compassion and understanding through our actions. We cannot cave into propaganda that uses tragedy to only perpetuate anti-Arab sentiment, Islamophobia, and xenophobia. Now is precisely the time to stand up for our core values. We are a proud nation of immigrants.

We, at ADC, join other organizations on this day in the mission of recognizing and appreciating refugees across the nation and around the globe. We extend our support and resources to their cause. ADC has developed a media toolkit with messages you can share and educational resources. We strongly encourage the public sector and other stakeholders to join us in our dedicated effort to welcome refugees.

# Stand with Refugees:

## Media Messaging

Take Action Today!



Add your name to the #WithRefugees petition to send a clear message to governments that they must act with solidarity and shared responsibility. <http://www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/us/>

Stories to share:

*"I try to do things to make it better for the next generation because someone did that for me"*

#WithRefugees

<http://bit.ly/2sAra6M>



## Facts

Source: UNHCR

- Only 50% of refugee children go to primary school. Sign the petition and stand [#WithRefugees](#)
- As of 2015 21.3 million people around the world are refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. Sign the petition, stand [#WithRefugees](#)
- Globally, one in every 122 humans is now either a refugee, internally displaced, or seeking asylum. Sign the petition, stand [#WithRefugees](#)
- Every year many asylum-seekers are forced back into deadly situations. Stand [#WithRefugees](#)
- More than 60% of the world's asylum seekers and refugees live in urban areas. [#RefugeeDay](#)
- About two-thirds of the world's refugees have been in exile for more than five years. Stand [#WithRefugees](#)
- Every year about 4 million people are trafficked or smuggled across international borders. [#RefugeeDay](#)
- Women and children account for four out of every five people displaced within their own countries due to conflict [#RefugeesWelcome](#)
- 9 Children in about 15 countries are in danger of being forcibly conscripted into armed groups. [#RefugeeDay](#)

# More Stories to Share

*"I dream of becoming a lawyer because I wish to help innocent people who are prosecuted for crimes that they have not committed."*

*#RefugeesWelcome*

*Tina Albarka, Mali*



*"I made the decision very easily, grabbed the hands of my children, like my grandmother grabbed mine 27 years ago and now, we are on a way towards a new, better life."*

*#WithRefugees*

*Sahara, Somalia*



*"We came here [Greece] for a better life and to find people who might better understand our situation."*

*#RefugeesWelcome*

*Jihan, Syria*



*"After my family were formally recognized as refugees, we felt more integrated."*

*#TeamRefugees*

*Clara, Colombia*



Source: UNHCR

# Can You Imagine?

- Can you imagine being so desperate to escape your country that you pay a smuggler to help you? [#TeamRefugees](#)
- Can you imagine the terror of being caught by the army you were fleeing from? Stand [#WithRefugees](#)
- Can you imagine the trauma of being separated from your family by war? [#RefugeeDay](#)
- Can you imagine being smuggled and put at risk of abduction, rape, forced labor, organ harvesting, torture and other abuses? Stand [#WithRefugees](#)
- Can you imagine being a stranger in strange land with no food or shelter? [#RefugeesWelcome](#)

#RefugeesWelcome

## Educational Resources

- Applications

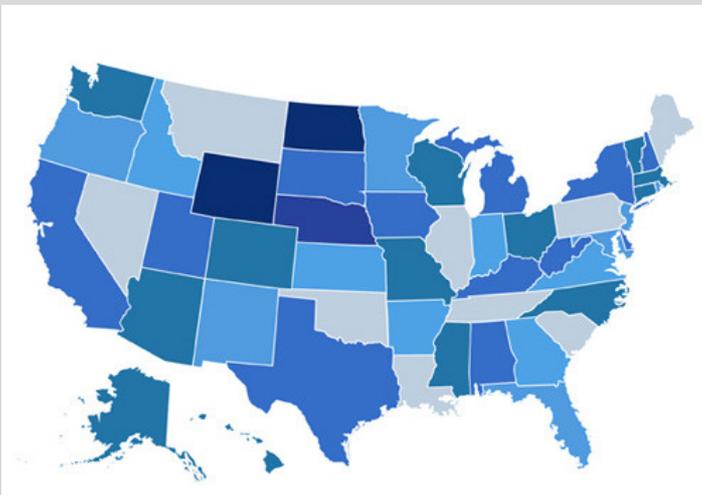
My Life as a Refugee  
Available on Apple Store  
& Android

Could you survive?

Available now on  
App Store & Android



- Find Events Near You



**VISIT:**  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/us/events/?pno=2>