



... CELEBRATING ...

# HANUKKAH

LIGHT, HOPE, AND THE REFUGEE  
CRISIS

Linda is an 18-year-old girl from a small town in El Salvador who fled to the US after she was targeted by a gang member. Going to the police is not an option in many parts of Central America where the authorities cooperate with the gangs. Linda fled her hometown, the only place she had ever known, to make the journey through Mexico to reach the US, where she will apply for asylum. Because Linda does not have any proof of what happened to her in El Salvador, it will be very difficult to win her case.

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of freedom from tyranny. Across the globe, millions of refugees, like Linda, have fled violence seeking an opportunity for the hope that lies at the core of the Hanukkah story--to live freely according to one's own faith, beliefs and conscience. Recalling the persecution faced by the Jews and their delivery to freedom, we reflect on those around the world who remain in conditions of insecurity and intolerance.

As people of faith, we have an obligation to uphold the values of justice, righteousness and mercy that undergird the Jewish tradition by supporting refugees seeking safety in the United States and elsewhere. In the spirit of Hanukkah, we rededicate ourselves to promoting respect, safety and dignity for every human being.

