

September 6, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

As 208 religious leaders and 108 national, state, and local faith-based organizations across traditions, we urge you to restore, strengthen, and expand the US refugee resettlement program. Specifically, **we urge you to set the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Presidential Determination (PD) at 200,000 by October 1st, and hold meaningful consultations with Congress before the end of FY22 in support of rebuilding the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). Throughout FY23, we urge you to meaningfully invest in rebuilding the resettlement infrastructure to increase refugee arrivals in the United States.**

We are called by our sacred texts and faith principles to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the sojourner. Our congregations, synagogues, and mosques have historically played key roles in assisting refugees with housing, language, employment, and social support necessary for rapid and effective resettlement into U.S. communities. Yet, our commitment to offering refuge from violence and persecution requires our government to demonstrate moral leadership.

The world faces its greatest ever displacement crisis, with over [100 million people](#) across the globe having been forced to flee their homes, including over [31 million refugees](#). As faith communities, we lament the suffering related to mass displacement and [remain committed](#) to advocating for welcoming policies. We have welcomed the steps taken by your administration to respond to a number of acute displacement crises over the last year, including Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) and the resettlement of over 80,000 Afghans, and the launch of Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) and the commitment to welcome 100,000 displaced Ukrainians. In the past year, our places of worship renewed our historic devotion to welcome and assisted tens of thousands of Afghans and Ukrainians as they sought safety in the U.S. and settled into communities across the country. Yet the need for broad-based humanitarian protection remains ever-growing. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees projects that in 2023, over [2 million refugees](#) will be in need of resettlement – populations that extend far beyond those to be served through OAW or U4U, and are just as deserving of protection. Moreover, as of June 30th, only [15,100 refugees](#) were resettled in the U.S., accounting for just 12% of the 125,000 refugee admissions goal, with three months left in the fiscal year. It is imperative that the administration continue to resettle as many refugees as possible for the remainder of this fiscal year and urgently address the USRAP rebuild as we plan for the next fiscal year.

Americans' support for the emergency responses in Afghanistan and Ukraine, and the mass mobilization of resources, demonstrates the willingness and desire for the United States to resume its position as the global leader in humanitarian protection. The expansion of community and private sponsorship programs can and should go hand-in-hand with the restoration of USRAP. The refugee resettlement program was created to provide lasting protection for those who have been displaced by protracted conflicts. Prioritizing the restoration and modernization of USRAP alongside complementary and supplemental sponsorship models will strengthen and secure a foundation where all forcibly displaced persons are provided the resources, services, and networks they need to thrive. Additionally, investing in USRAP will ensure that those who have been awaiting resettlement or family reunification for years will have an equitable opportunity to reach safety.

In light of the extraordinary global need, and the United States' demonstrated capacity to expand welcome, it is imperative that your administration set a robust refugee admissions goal of 200,000 refugees for FY23. Our request for a topline of 200,000 refugees reflects not only the current pressing resettlement needs, but directly speaks to both the origins of the program – when the [United States resettled](#) over 207,000 refugees in 1980 – and to our current moment, in which the U.S. government mobilized to welcome nearly 200,000 Afghans and Ukrainians outside of the resettlement program. We ask your administration to fully reinvest in USRAP as a cornerstone of our nation's humanitarian protection programs, utilize USRAP as a tool to ensure that global humanitarian needs are addressed with greater equity, and lead the international community in demonstrating welcome.

We are called by our sacred texts to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the sojourner. Our places of worship and faith communities stand ready to welcome all in need of refuge.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Faith Organizations/Groups

Accompaniment & Sanctuary Coalition Colorado Springs
Alliance of Baptists
Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance
Baltimore-Washington Conference UMC Advocacy and Action
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore
Board of Christian Outreach of First Baptist Church
Center for Faith, Justice, and Reconciliation
Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice
Church World Service
City Harvest Mission Church
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office
Disciples Center for Public Witness
Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries
Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, Washington DC
Ecumenical Ministry of Oregon
Faith Assembly Church
Faith Commons
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Tucson, AZ
First Congregational Church of San Jose
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Full Life Church
Gateway International Church
Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center
Grace Zomi Baptist Church
Grace St. Paul's
Guadalupe Presbyterian Church USA
HIAS
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Ignatian Solidarity Network
Immigrant Justice Ministry of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America
Interfaith Welcome Coalition - San Antonio
JAMAAT - Jews and Muslims and Allies Acting Together
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
Kingdom Youth
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Missionary Oblates JPIC Office
Midway Hills Christian Church
Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees
Myanmar Mission Church
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of Churches
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Long Beach & West Orange County (CA)
NC Conference of the United Methodist Church
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance of Maryland
New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
Orange County Jewish Coalition for Refugees
Pennsylvania Council of Churches

Pilgrim United Church Of Christ
Provincial Council Clerics of St, Viator
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Quaker
St. Paul's Episcopal Church/Rio Grande Borderland Ministries
Santa Cruz Welcoming Network
Shiloh Lutheran
Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, Inc.
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Sisters of Charity Federation
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership - Kansas
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership - National
Sisters of Charity of New York
Sisters of Charity, BVM
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur USA
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
Sojourners
Srs of St Joseph of Boston, MA
St. Anthony Social Justice Ministry
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Tennessee Resettlement Aid
The Community of St. Francis
The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ
U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
United Methodist Churches of Indiana
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration
White Rabbit Grove RDNA
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)
World Renew
Youth with a Mission
Zbcm of Tulsa Inc
ZCMF - USA
ZOMI AGAPE CHURCH,INC
Zomi Bethel Church
Zomi Christian Church
Zomi Christian Church - Jacksonville
Zomi Christian Minister Fellowship - Indiana
Zomi Christian Ministers Fellowship of USA - Ohio
Zomi Mission Church

Faith Leaders

National

Mr Atef Soliman, Gatef Organization
Dr. E. A. Leone Elizabeth Leone, Christian Life Community
Sister Mary Ann Penner, IHM Sisters
Sister Rose Therese Nolta, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Br. Michael Gosch, Clerics of St. Viator

Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie, Pacific University Chaplain Emeritus
Rev. Emily Wilkes, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Sister Teresa Kotturan, Sisters of Charity Federation
Mr. Johnny Sears, The Academy for Spiritual Formation
Rev. Michael Neuroth, United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries
Sister Bernadine Karge, Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, WI
Sr. LaDonna Manternach, Sisters of Charity, BVM
Past President Carol Blythe, Alliance of Baptists
Frank McCann, CSJP-A Frank McCann, Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
Reverend Luis-Alfredo Cartagena Zayas, Orar Avenue Christian Church (DoC)/UCC
Rev. Dr. Edward Kern, ELCA
Sister Eileen Gannon, Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

Alabama

Farook Chandiwala, Birmingham Islamic Society

Arizona

Ms. Suzanne Hesh, UCC / Episcopal
Ms. Salena Petersen-Keesecker, Guadalupe Presbyterian Church, USA
Rev. Dr. Randy Mayer, The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ
Rev. Kate Lehman, St. Teresa of Avila Ecumenical Catholic Comm.

Arkansas

Rev. Dr. Clint Schneklath, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

California

Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Mary Kay Will, United Methodist Church
Ms. JL Angell, Presbyterian
Sister Linda Snow, Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Catechist Lorin Peters, St Leander's Catholic Parish
Rev. Deborah Lee, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman, First Congregational Church of Palo Alto UCC
Miss Carol Ramsey, Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, St. Francis Province
Rev. Michael Burch, Shell Ridge Community Church
Rev. Dr. Allison Tanner, Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church
Reverend Carla Dietz, First Congregational Church of San Jose
Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, CLUE VC
Elder Jan Gardner, St. Luke's Presbyterian
Reverend Rosa Manriquez, Roman Catholic Womenpriests-Region for the Holy Margins
The Rev. Madison Shockley II, Pilgrim United Church Of Christ, Carlsbad
Dr. Elizabeth Liebert, Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
Rev. Jim Conn, United Methodist Church
Sister Susan Blomstad, Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity

Colorado

Reverend Bobbi Wells Hargleroad, Presbytery of Plains and Peaks, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Rev. Jane Anne Ferguson, Plymouth Congregational, UCC
Rev. JT Smiedendorf, Plymouth Congregational Church UCC
Brother Richard Creswell, Bethel Chr. Fwp

Connecticut

Sister Ethel Howley, SSND
Just Peace Team Leader, Kathy Lindner, Storrs Congregational Church

Florida

Sister Mary Fleischaker, Adrian Dominican Sisters

Georgia

The Ven. Carole Maddux, Diocese of Atlanta

Rev. Tom Hagood, New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta

Idaho

Rev. Dr. Duane Anders, Boise First United Methodist

Illinois

Mr. Tom Cordaro Pax, Christi Illinois

Ms Deborah Pellegrini, IPC Immigration Ministry, Archdiocese of Chicago

Mr Brian Chapman, Cook County

Rev. Corey Brost, Clerics of St. Viator

Bp. Sharon Z Rader, United Methodist Church

Rev. David Gibbons, St Mark's Episcopal Church

Dr. Karen Wilson, Oriental Institute Museum

Rev. Carol McVetty, North Shore Baptist Church, Chicago

Dr. Karen Casciaro, SBI

Sister Christina Fuller, Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

Rev. Linda Wygant, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Indiana

Elder Ann Jones, First Presbyterian, Columbus, IN

Rev. Sarah Nowak, Pleasant View Lutheran Church, ELCA

Rev. Jennifer Huff, United Methodist Churches of Indiana

Iowa

David Hansen, Ames Friends Meeting

Rev. Julia EF Poulsen, United Methodist Pastor, Retired

Rev. Daishin McCabe, Zen Fields

Rev. Russell J. A. Melby, ELCA, Bethesda Lutheran

Mrs. Diane Pierce, ASIP - Bethesda Lutheran

Sister Judy Zielinski, Sisters of St Francis Sylvania

Sister Irene Lukefahr, Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking & Slavery

Sister Karen Conover, Member of Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Kansas

Rev.Carolynn Winters-Hazelton, West Side Presbyterian Church

Kentucky

Rev. Eric Iversen, Transylvania Presbytery, PCUSA

Rev. Donald Seeger, PCUSA

Reverend Merry Jones, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Louisiana

Reverend James VanderWeele, Community Church Unitarian Universalist

Maine

Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, United Methodist Church

Maryland

Rev. Betty Landis, Saint Stephen Lutheran (ELCA)

Retired Chaplain Patricia Hollinger, Church of the Brethren/Quaker

Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer, UUSJ Immigration Action Team & MD Against ICE Detention

Rev. Dr. Stacey Wilson, Baltimore-Washington Conference UMC

Rev. Dr. Eliezer Valentin-Castanon, The United Methodist Church

Massachusetts

Sister Catherine Decker, Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, MA

Sister Julia Fitzpatrick, Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston

Sister Mary L. Murphy, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston

Sister Mary Anne Doyle, Sisters of St Joseph of Boston

Sister Mary Lofgren, Sisters of St. Joseph

CSJ AliceMary Kirby, sisters of St Joseph of Boston
Sr. Maryann Enright, Sisters of St. Joseph
Dr. Rose Yesu, Sisters of St. Joseph-Boston
Sister Margaret McLaughlin, Missionary Franciscan Sisters
Rev. Eliot Moss, St. John's Episcopal Church

Michigan

Rev. Alice Townley The Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church
Rev. Susan Greenwood First Congregational UCC Coloma, MI
Rev. Kristin Stroble. Eastminster Presbyterian Church
Rev. Michael Mulberry, Berrien Immigrant Solidarity Network
Sister Judith Bonini, SSIHM
Maria Romero, Adrian Dominican Sisters
Rev. Chris DeBlaay, The Branch Church
Mrs. Julia Colingsworth, Holland First United Methodist

Minnesota

Pastor Corrine Haulotte, Lutheran Campus Center
Marlys Jax, Assisi Heights Spirituality Center
Sr. Cecily Schroepfer, Catholic Church
The Rev. Dr. Paula Nordhem, United Church of Christ

Missouri

Rev. Rebecca Turner, Christ Church UCC

Nevada

Chaplain C. Brent, Hoy-Bianchi Renown Health

New Jersey

Reverend Julie Yarborough, Christ Church

New Mexico

Sister Kathleen Corbett, Roman Catholic Church
Rev. Sue Joiner, First Congregational UCC
Rev. Glen Thamert, Jemez Peacemakers

New York

Dr. Mazedra Uddin South Asian Fund For Education Scholarship and Training Inc
Dr. Denise Mack, RocACTS Religious Leaders
Rev. Merle Showers, University UMC
Sister Sheila Browne, Sisters of Mercy
Br. Michael Potvin-Frost, Order of Franciscan Hermits
Sister Suzanne Wallin, Sisters of Charity of New York
Rev. Anne Dunlap, Showing Up for Racial Justice
Rev. Jeff Wells, United Methodist Church of the Village (NYC)
Sister Carol De Angelo, Sisters of Charity of New York
Deborah Steedle, Sisters of St Joseph, Brentwood
Elder Terry Diggory, Presbyterian - New England Congregational Church, Saratoga Springs, NY
Rev. John Kirwin, Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany
Rabbi Linda Motzkin, Temple Sinai
Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein, Temple Sinai
Deacon Edward Solomon, Roman Catholic
Sister Kathleen Byrnes, Sisters of Charity
Sr. Joan Agro, Srs. of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, NY
Dr. Mazedra Uddin, South Asian Fund For Education Scholarship and Training Inc
Sister Margaret O'Brien, Sisters of Charity of New York
Clerk Jennifer Lindop Saratoga Friends Meeting
The Rev. Elizabeth Maxwell, Church of the Ascension
Rev. Paula D. Hart Paula Hart, American Baptist Church

North Carolina

The Rev. Christine Payden-Travers, Episcopal Priest
Rev. Dr. Douglas Wingeier, United Methodist Church
Elder Sandy Irving, Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

Ohio

Rev. Dr. Kevin Orr, United Methodist Church
Sr. Patricia Gardner, Sisters of St. Francis
Rev. Kate Shaner Kate Shaner, First Community Church
Marlene Rink
Sister Judith Clemens, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Ohio Province
Sister Carol Wetli, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Pastor Henry Zorn, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Member Gale Bromelemeier, Church of the Covenant

Oklahoma

Pastor Ngul Cing, Zomi Minister Fellowship USA / Far East Mission Church
Pastor Nem Uap, MZBC

Oregon

Chaplain Catherine Elia, St. Ignatius Parish
Rev. Jeanne Randall-Bodman, Kairos-Milwaukie United Church of Christ
Mr. Kenneth Crouse, First Congregational UCC
Rev. Adam Hange, First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Pennsylvania

Rev. Dr. Ron Adams, Landisville Mennonite Church
Rev. Paul Hagedorn, Tabernacle Lutheran Church
Ms. Marilyn Reed, Narberth Presbyterian Church
Miss Ashley Reed, Narberth Presbyterian Church
Rev. Sandra Strauss, Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Sister Dominica Lo Bianco, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Rev. Erin Morey St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Sister Hollis Chenery, Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosa
Rev. Daniel Erdman, Iglesia Presbiteriana Resurrección
Mrs. Pamela Morris, Friedens United Church of Christ
Pastoral Commission Member Bonnie Rhoads, Palmyra Church of the Brethren
Devoted Lutheran and Pro-Immigration Blogger David Atkinson, Tree of Life Lutheran Church/AMMPARO
Rev. Thomas Lang, St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Parishioner Ellen Milligan, St. Edward's Episcopal Church
Mrs. Judith Schofield, Welcome Committee & IAD, St. Mary's Episcopal Church-Ardmore
Sr. Kari Pohl Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, PA
Sister Betty McVeigh, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia
Rabbi David Straus, Main Line Reform Temple
Reverend DeAnn Books, Shiloh Lutheran
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Tennessee

Rev. Dr. Dal Piang Zomi, Christian Church
Dr. Peter Gathje, Manna House Memphis

Texas

Rev. Allison Lanza Allison, LANZA Ridglea Christian Church
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Nash, United Church of Christ
Rev. Cindy Wu, Mosaic Formation
Rev. Dr. Edward Kern, Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Rev. Dr. Neil Thomas, Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ
President Emeritus Thomas, Nieland UUFHCT
Presbyterian Elder Rita Clarke, Bethany Presbyterian Church
Reverend John Andrews, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rabbi Nancy Kasten, Faith Commons
The Rev. Michael G Wallens, St. Paul's Episcopal Church/Rio Grande Borderland Ministries
Rev. Phillip Dieke, White Rock UMC
Rev. Jessica Vacketta, University Christian Church (DOC)

Vermont

The Venerable Catherine Cooke, Cathedral Church of St. Paul - Episcopal

Virginia

Elder Susan Tarr, The Church of the Covenant (PCUSA)
Rev. Jay Campbell, Mount Vernon UMC
Rev. Wayne Blaser, National Capital Presbytery
Rabbi Ellen Jaffe-Gill, Tidewater Chavurah
Rev. Steven Jones, United Church of Christ

Washington

Rev. Dr. Marvin Eckfeldt, First Christian Church Kent
Rev. Thomas Quigley, University Christian Church Legacy Foundation
Sr. Pat Millen, OSF, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

Washington, DC

Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price, Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, National City Christian Church
Rev. Alexis Vaughan, Congregation Action Network
Mr. Jason Miller Parishioner, St. Martin's Catholic Church

Wisconsin

Helgaleena Healingline, White Rabbit Grove RDNA
Rev. Dr. Dan Odden, Evangelical Lutheran Church
Rev. Sonja Ingebritsen, First Congregational United Church of Christ
Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Steve Davis Zwingli, United Church of Christ
Sister Frances Hoffman, Racine Dominican Sisters
Rabbi Renee Bauer, Jewish Social Services of Madison
Sister Ruth Battaglia, Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes

Wyoming

Reverend Kenneth Ingram, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Laramie, WY