



What can we do?

Right now, there are 4 million Syrian refugees and 8 million displaced within Syria. In this time of response, our nation faces messages of fear and scarcity. In this time of faith, we come together in prayer and action.

PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Creator of all, we gather today thankful that you have welcomed us.

All: We give thanks that through our hardest times, God has heard our cry.

Leader: Just as God has accompanied us on our journey, we are called to walk alongside those who have been mistreated, persecuted and outcast.

All: Together as a faith community, we are called to be a space of love and safe refuge for all people.

Leader: Let us work together with refugees and immigrants from many different lands to welcome them in, and let us pray that the crisis in Syria might soon end, so displaced people can someday return to their homeland.

All: As we wait for You to answer these prayers, we re-commit ourselves to be a welcoming congregation lifting up immigrants and refugees in our midst and preparing ourselves to advocate with them by our side. Amen

INTERCESSIONS

For the people of Syria
For the United Nations,
our own nation, and the fellowship of nations
For refugees, and those in harm's way
For peacemakers, relief workers, and policy makers

For the voices of peoples of faith, that we may have courage, grace, integrity and the strength to listen and to speak.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Oh God, our creator and liberator, we pray for all those who face the trials and tribulations of exclusion. We lift up all those who have been made outcast in our world; for those impoverished by inequality, for those who find



themselves in the cold from homelessness, for those who are treated differently because of their skin color or religious background. Today we say a special prayer for all the refugees in the world who have faced violence and persecution. Now many of them face discrimination upon arriving to the safety of this land. Strengthen our faith to be accepting to all and fortify our witness to advocate for just and humane policies that expand the path of welcome for refugees to join our communities. In the same way, we pray for all those who face sickness and disease, in our congregation and throughout our community, may Your blessing comfort them and may Your healing power touch them. In the Spirit of love and compassion we pray. Amen.

www.interfaithimmigration.org

For prayers specific to the Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Pagan, Christian, and Buddhist faith traditions see [here](#).

ACT

ADD YOUR VOICE

As people across the United States are volunteering to welcome refugees in their communities, a number of Governors announced that they want to stop their states from resettling Syrian refugees. It is critical that public officials hear from people of faith. Encourage your community to reach out. This [card](#) can be edited, printed, and left for congregants to take with them or inserted in your bulletin. See <http://www.cwsglobal.org/our-work/advocacy/welcome-syrian-refugees.html> for updates before you print.



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Take a photo of a group of your congregants with a sign that says "Refugees Welcome".

- Post it to: 1) your church's website 2) your church's facebook page,
- e-mail it to your 1) governor 2) congressperson 3) mayor
- e-mail the photo to socialmedia@cwsglobal.org
- tweet and tag the photo @CWS_Global and #RefugeesWelcome

Continue your faith community's witness by planning a congressional visit with RCUSA's [Local Congressional Visits Toolkit](#) or organize a Welcome Dinner to promote dialogue using the Interfaith Immigration Coalition's [Welcoming Dinners Resources](#).

WELCOME ONE FAMILY

WELCOME HOME

Refugee families are arriving with little more than the clothing on their backs. Collect the household goods one family will need to start a new life in the US. Ship these items to cities across the US where refugees from Syria, Burma, Iraq and other countries are arriving. Staff and volunteers will unpack the boxes, set up the apartment, and the family will arrive to a home filled with your contribution of plates, pillows, and can openers. Please see this [list of items](#). Congregations may also sign and include a card of welcome. Please contact bcasey@cwsglobal.org to facilitate and so that your congregation can receive an update and thank you message.



RENT AND UTILITIES

US refugee resettlement focuses on early self-sufficiency. Refugees have three months or less to learn a new community, find a job, and become self-sufficient. It costs an average of \$3,000 for a family to pay their first months rent and utilities. Take a collection to help refugee families cover initial expenses. Funds will go to arriving Syrian families for housing, utilities, and basic needs as well as Syrian crisis advocacy. Contact bcasey@cwsglobal.org to facilitate donation of collected funds.

****If your city has a [CWS affiliate resettlement office](#) or other [resettlement agency](#), contact your local resettlement agency. They may have specific needs.***