



# Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

## **YOUR VOICE IS URGENTLY NEEDED: Tell Your Governor to WELCOME SYRIAN REFUGEES!**

Background: As people across the United States are donating to help Syrian refugees abroad and volunteering to welcome refugees in their communities, a number of Governors recently announced that they want to stop their states from resettling Syrian refugees. This is morally reprehensible and goes against everything for which the United States stands. It is critical that public officials hear from their constituents NOW as decisions are being made that will drastically impact the lives of Syrian refugees and refugee resettlement in the United States.

### **Please take action TODAY: If you live in these states, call your Governor!**

- 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
- Maryland: (410) 974-3901
- Massachusetts: (617) 725-4005 / (413) 784-1200 / (202) 624-7713
- Michigan: (517) 373-3400
- Mississippi: (601) 359-3150
- Nebraska: (402) 471-2244
- Nevada: (775) 684-5670 / (702) 486-2500
- New Hampshire: (603) 271-2121
- New Jersey: (609) 292-6000
- New Mexico: (505) 476-2200
- North Carolina: (919) 814-2000
- North Dakota: (703) 328-2200
- Ohio: (614) 466-3555
- Oklahoma: (405) 521-2342
- South Carolina: (803) 734-2100
- South Dakota: (605) 773-3212
- Tennessee: (615) 741-2001
- Texas: 800-843-5789 / (512) 463-1782
- Wisconsin: (608) 266-1212
- Wyoming: (307) 777-7434

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

*Ex: "I'm a constituent from [City] and I support the resettlement of Syrian refugees. I urge the 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!

- The U.S. 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 Governors and your network:

“.[Governor’s handle], Our community is ready to welcome #Syrian #refugees. #RefugeesWelcome #AmericaWelcomes!”

Follow @LIRSorg on Twitter and “like” Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service on Facebook for up-to-date alerts.