

ACTION ALERT

Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

September 13, 2017

ISSUE: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

The Trump administration is considering how many refugees we will welcome to the United States in the next fiscal year. As we face the worst refugee crisis in global history, with more than 22 million refugees worldwide, we cannot and should not shirk our responsibility to protect the most vulnerable mothers, fathers, and children. President Trump will announce his decision by the end of this month, so it is a critical time to lift up our collective voice and stand with refugees in the United States and abroad. Congress needs to hear that their constituents welcome refugees and that we should resettle at least 75,000 refugees next year.

ACTION: CALL YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE

US Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121

Please call 3 times to connect with your Representative and both of your Senators.

Sample Script: “I am a Sister of Charity/Seton Associate, your constituent from [CITY/TOWN], and I strongly support refugee resettlement. I urge you to do everything in your power to see that the administration resettles at least 75,000 refugees in 2018. As we face a global refugee crisis with more than 22 million refugees, U.S. resettlement strengthens our national security, encourages other countries to keep their doors open to refugees, and advances our foreign policy interests. I call on you to protect the U.S. refugee resettlement program. My community welcomes refugees, and I urge you to reflect the best of our American values of compassion and hospitality.”

You may mention that the Sisters of Charity/Seton Associates are active in refugee resettlement through our involvement in RAMP (Refugee Assistance Morris Partners) that has settled two refugee families this year. We also house asylum seekers in several of our convents.

PRAYER:

God of our Wandering Ancestors, Long have we known that your heart is with the

refugee: That you were born into time in a family of refugees fleeing violence in their homeland, who then gathered up their hungry child and fled into alien country. Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages: "Will you let me in?" Give us hearts that break open

When our brothers and sisters turn to us with that same cry.

Then surely all these things will follow: Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices. Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat. Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate. And hands will reach out—

working for peace in their homeland, working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven. Lord, protect all refugees in their travels. May they find a friend in me And so make me worthy of the refuge I have found in you.

Amen