

Refugee Crisis Update- August/Sept 2017



Serving Refugee & Immigrant Neighbors Together

Worldwide (Source- UNHCR):

- 21.7 million refugees worldwide
 - 5.1 million Syrian have fled as refugees
 - More than 1.2 million children have fled Southern Sudan as refugees
 - More than 2,500 have drowned in the Mediterranean seeking safety so far in 2017
 - 17 years is the average length of time from when a refugee first flees their country until they reach a “durable solution.” Less than one percent of refugees are ever resettled.
- 45 million Internally Displaced People (IDP)
 - 6.3 million Syrians are internally displaced persons
 - More than 3.0 million Yemenis are internally displaced persons

United States (Source- US State Department, unless otherwise noted):

- 3,000,000 refugees from all countries have arrived in the U.S. over the past 30+ years.
- From fiscal years 2002 to 2016, the U.S. admitted 399,677 Christian refugees and 279,339 Muslim refugees. That means that 46% of all refugees who have entered the U.S. during this time have been Christian while 32% have been Muslim. (Pew Research Center)
- More than 250,000 women and children have been resettled in the US since 2011 (70% of total).
- 18-24 months is the average security screening time for a refugee before arriving in the U.S.
- The Administration lowered the number of refugees to be allowed into the United States annually from 110,000 to 50,000 (or one refugee for every 7,000 U.S. residents).

What the Presidential Executive Order said: *(to be reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court in October 2017)*

- **No refugees from ANY COUNTRY can travel into the U.S. for 120 days** while the US government evaluates its security and vetting processes. *(Note it has been further ruled that those refugees who can prove a bona fide relationship with someone in the U.S.A. may still be allowed to travel)*
- **There is a 90-day ban on the issuance of travel visas for citizens** from six countries: Iran, Sudan, Syria, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen. *(Note it has been further ruled that those who can prove a bona fide relationship with someone in the U.S.A. may still be allowed to travel if they have valid visas).*

What this means for refugees:

- The Federal Budget and President Determination for the upcoming program year (Oct 1st) have not been established. There is only speculation as to how robust refugee resettlement will be in PY2018.
- Refugees in the United States are protected by U.S. law. Refugee status does not expire, but we encourage refugees to apply for green cards (after 1 year) and to become U.S. Citizens (after 5 years).
- All nationals of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen should not travel abroad at this time if they do not have a valid reentry visa to the U.S. and/or a green card (Legal Permanent Resident status) or U.S. citizenship.
- If you have family or friends who are refugees trying to come to the United States, do not give up hope that they will come. However, you should prepare yourself for difficult news or for further long delays.

How we can respond:

- **Pray** for our country’s leaders, refugees around the world, and the church to respond generously.
- **Love** your friends, neighbors, and coworkers who are refugees. They are feeling afraid right now and unsure of their future and whether they will be reunited with loved ones still overseas.
- **Advocate** for helping refugees in the camps and for a compassion response to refugee resettlement.
- **Volunteer and Support Arrive Ministries.** We have refugees being resettled and have many families already here who desire friendship partners, New Neighbors, ESL/tutoring help, employment mentors, and other practical support. Above all “love your neighbor as yourself.”