

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

Appropriations for Refugee Protection and Resettlement

Today, the number of forcibly displaced persons around the world exceeds 65 million, the largest number in recorded history. Among them are over 25 million refugees. The United States has long been a global leader in protecting and defending liberty and justice through its support of refugees and other vulnerable populations who are victims of persecution and violence. Robust funding is critical for these programs that uplift human dignity, combat oppression and extremism, and advance our nation's values and security.

The Episcopal Church General Convention supports robust refugee resettlement admissions. This includes both funding to protect refugees abroad and provide for regional stability through mitigating the root causes of migration and also providing funding for refugees and the communities that welcome them to thrive together. Equipped by this mandate, Episcopalians can engage the federal budget appropriations process by urging their policymakers to advance humanitarian protections and resettlement through:

Overseas Refugee Protection and Resettlement: The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) within the Department of State provides life-sustaining assistance to refugees and to internally displaced persons. Additionally, PRM implements activities for the admission of refugees to the U.S. and provides reception and placement services to refugees upon arrival. **We call on the State and Foreign Operations subcommittee to allocate \$3.64 billion for the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18).**

Humanitarian Assistance for Displaced Persons: The Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) within U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funds humanitarian assistance to people displaced by disaster, conflict, and war. **We call on the State and Foreign Operations subcommittee to allocate \$3.41 billion for the International Disaster Assistance Account (IDA) account for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18).**

Emergency Humanitarian Response: The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) within the Department of State utilizes an emergency, draw-down account to meet rapidly-occurring and unforeseen humanitarian needs. **We call on the State and Foreign Operations subcommittee to allocate \$50 million for the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) account for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18).**

Funding for Resettled Refugees and Vulnerable Populations: The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the Department of Health & Human Services provides initial services upon arrival for refugees that have been screened and approved by the federal government for resettlement. These services are targeted to assist refugees achieve self-sufficiency and integration through employment, English language learning, health services, and more. Additionally, ORR provides services to trafficking victims, torture survivors, and unaccompanied children. **We call on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Programs subcommittee to allocate \$2.19 billion for the Refugee and Entrant Assistance (REA) account for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18).**

Learn More:

Refugee resettlement services upon arrival: <http://www.rcusa.org/integration-of-refugees/>
Contributions of refugees to the U.S.: <http://www.rcusa.org/contributions-of-refugees-to-the-us/>
Episcopal Migration Ministries, the Episcopal Church's refugee resettlement agency:
<http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/>

