



August 2, 2019

President Donald J. Trump  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

As representatives of Christian faith-based organizations in Canada related to the global ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), we write to express our deep concern about recent reports that some US Government officials have proposed that no refugees be admitted in Fiscal Year 2020.

We are Canadian church organizations that have a 40-year track record of welcoming refugees to Canada (in collaboration with our government) through the Private Refugee Sponsorship Program. In Canada, we have pressed our government to

- Support the rights of the migrants and refugees in the migrant caravans from Central America;
- Find a way to open Canadian borders to the migrants and refugees in the caravans.
- Repeal the Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the US:  
<https://www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/support-refugees-fleeing-united-states>

Canada and the United States share a long tradition of welcoming men, women and children who are seeking refuge from persecution and conflict. Welcoming refugees through resettlement reflects a shared global responsibility in the face of the worst global forced displacement crisis since World War II. Canada resettled 130,000 refugees over the past four years, new citizens of our country who are contributing to a growing economy and healthy society. Our two countries share a common interest in utilizing resettlement as an important tool of humanitarian diplomacy and encouraging peaceful solutions to crises around the world.

War, conflict, and persecution have forced millions to leave their homes, creating more refugees than at any other time in history. There are more than 70 million displaced persons worldwide, including more than 25 million refugees, over half of whom are children. UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, reports that global resettlement needs have doubled in recent years reaching over 1.44 million refugees in 2020.

We stand in solidarity with sister churches in the US that are confronting the crisis. At no other time has there been a greater need for us to work together across nations to realize our shared humanitarian goals and to live out our shared moral values. Refugee resettlement plays a critical role both in ensuring safety for people fleeing persecution and in advancing religious and political freedom. Reductions in access to resettlement have significant repercussions for men, women and children seeking to resume their lives safely and freely.

We urge the US Government to reflect this shared responsibility, by recommitting to a robust refugee resettlement program in the coming year.

Sincerely,

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