

GLOBAL MIGRATION AND REFUGEES

FAITH & FACTS

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

What does the Bible say?

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. **(Leviticus 19:33-34)**

I was a stranger and you welcomed me. **(Matthew 25:35b)**

So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household. **(Ephesians 2:19)**

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. **(Hebrews 13:2)**



What does The United Methodist Church say?

We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. **(Social Principles ¶162.H)**

Migrants' rights are human rights. It is tragic when migrants, whose rights have already been violated in their home countries, find their human rights also violated in their foreign host countries. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6025, "Globalization and its Impact on Human Dignity and Human Rights")**



Christians do not approach the issue of migration from the perspective of tribe or nation, but from within a faith community of love and welcome, a community that teaches and expects hospitality to the poor, the homeless, and the oppressed. The Christian community at its best not only welcomes and embraces migrants but can be led by them toward clearer understandings of justice and hospitality. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6028, "Global Migration and the Quest for Justice")**

Virtually all groups of today's migrants and refugees are battered by the divide between the rich and the poor, a divide rooted in 19th and 20th century colonialism and directly caused by rapid corporate globalization in agriculture, industry and commerce. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6028, "Global Migration and the Quest for Justice")**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

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What do the facts say?

- A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.¹
- Not all movements—migration or immigration—are unhampered and chosen freely. Forced migration is a denial of human dignity and a violation of human rights. Addressing forced migration at countries of origin is the way to address its root causes.²
- An unprecedented 65.3 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 21.3 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.³
- It's poor countries, not rich, western countries, who look after the vast majority of the world's refugees...Most refugees just move from one poor country to another.⁴
- Every year, around one million people seek asylum.⁵



¹ United Nations Refugees, ² Churches Witnessing With Migrants, ³ UNHCR, ⁴ Refugee Council, ⁵ UNHCR

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...



Urge your government to adopt policies for just and hospitable welcome of refugees and migrants. Advocate for just and expeditious processing of refugee applications.

Help migrants and refugees integrate to a new culture. Help them address psychosocial issues, including traumas, associated with forced migration.

Do cross-cultural learning and sensitivity training about each country's customs, traditions and social expectations. Help refugees and migrants develop language skills, look for a job, set up a bank account, and navigate a new city.

Get your church to support refugee resettlement in your community. For help, contact Church World Service (www.cwsglobal.org).

Donate to the United Methodist Committee on Relief's efforts to help migrants and refugees: Advance #3022144

Speak out against racism and xenophobia in your community.

For more information contact:

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