

NETWORK OF JEWISH HUMAN SERVICE AGENCIES STAND WITH REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

The Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, together with the leadership of its predecessor organizations, IAJVS (International Association of Jewish Vocational Service Agencies) and AJFCA (Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies) and its member agencies representing more than 140 Jewish Vocational Service and Jewish Family Service agencies throughout the United States, Canada and Israel stand together in protest against the Trump administration's Executive Order to halt all refugee resettlement for 120 days, to suspend Syrian resettlement indefinitely, to limit immigration from Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen and to significantly reduce the ceiling for refugee admissions.

As organizations with proud histories of helping Jews who came to this country as refugees from Nazi occupation and from Soviet persecution, today's JVS and JFS agencies are leadership agencies in their local communities providing a range of critical, life-saving support for vulnerable refugees who come to the US fleeing persecution and seeking safety.

Today, JVS and JFS agencies help to position these refugees for successful citizenship in the US. JVS and JFS agencies, working together with HIAS and other US State Department approved Resettlement Agencies, help refugees to learn English, secure employment and housing and ultimately fulfill the core Jewish value of "welcoming the stranger, for we ourselves were once strangers". We are also mindful of our long Jewish history of seeking refuge and too often being turned away due to religious discrimination; therefore we oppose today's efforts to slam the door shut on Muslim refugees and immigrants.

Today, the US government is choosing to prevent refugees who are fleeing death, starvation and persecution from coming to America. The United States resettles more refugees than any other country. The Executive Order creates a humanitarian crisis to those thousands who are affected, many of them children.

Today, we urge you to join with the tens of thousands of religious leaders, elected officials, community volunteers and fellow Americans in protest to the Trump administration's Executive Order

The Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies urges you to take action today.

Let the Trump administration and members of Congress know how you feel.

Join with NJHSA and its membership to ensure that refugees can continue to realize the American dream.

Help us to ensure that the recent judicial stay on the implementation of the Executive Order is maintained and that refugees will remain part of the very fabric which is today the United States of America.

June Gutterman James Kahn
Co-Chairs,
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies