

# ★ Countering “Alternative Facts” with Facts ★

This issue presents several talking points to provide your community with facts about refugee resettlement. This resource may be useful as you are making the case for refugees in your parishes and communities. To access the archive of *The POWR Post* or locate more volunteer resources, go to [My Membership](#) [Login: Your email; Password: migration1234]



## Mission

1. The Catholic Church in the United States has been helping immigrants and refugees since the founding of this nation. Indeed, it is what the Gospel calls us to do: Jesus tells his disciples, “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” ([Matthew, Chapter 25](#))
2. As of today, 65.3 million people on earth are considered refugees (that is one out of every 113 people), and two-in-five people living in Jordan are refugees from the wars in Iraq, Palestine and Syria. ([UNHCR](#), [Pew Research Center](#))
3. Every U.S. household pays more than \$1,100 in annual taxes for road construction, but only \$10 for refugees. ([U.S. PIRG](#), [OECD](#), [MRS Refugee Research Blog](#))



## Security

1. The hardest way to come to the U.S. is as a refugee. Refugees are vetted more intensively than any other group seeking to enter the U.S. It takes 18 to 24 months for government checks to be conducted, compared to four months in Canada. ([Migration Policy Institute](#))
2. Of the 784,000 refugees resettled in the U.S. since September 11, 2001, three have been arrested for planning terrorist activities – two of whom were planning attacks outside the country. ([Migration Policy Institute](#))
3. Every single deadly jihadist attack inside the U.S. since 2001 was carried out by an American citizen or legal resident. *New America* tracked nearly 400 cases involving people charged with jihadist terrorism or a related crime. In fifty percent of these cases, people involved were born in the U.S., while nearly a third involved naturalized citizens or permanent residents. ([New America](#))

## Benefits

1. A study of greater Cleveland found that while \$4.8 million was spent on refugee services in 2012, spending by refugees, refugee-owned businesses, and refugee service organizations boosted the local economy by \$48 million, creating 650 jobs and providing \$2.7 million in tax revenues. ([Chmura Economics & Analytics](#))
2. Google co-founder Sergey Brin came to America as a refugee. The father of Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple, was a Syrian refugee. eBay was founded by an Iranian-American, Pierre Omidyar. The software giant Oracle Corp. was co-founded by Bob Miner, who was also Iranian-American. ([Foreign Policy](#), [Notable Names Database](#))
3. Refugee men are employed at a higher rate than their U.S.-born peers, with two-thirds of refugee men employed during the 2009-11 period, compared to 60 percent U.S.-born men. More than half of refugee women were employed during the same period – the same rate as U.S.-born women. ([Migration Policy Institute](#))



## Perspective

1. Recent polling data shows that 71% of Americans would accept refugees in their home, neighborhood, city or country. Overall acceptance levels are highest in Spain and Germany (97% and 96% respectively). ([Amnesty International](#))
2. As of the end of 2015, nearly all of Syrian refugees in the Middle East lived in just three countries: Turkey (2.5 million), Lebanon (1.1 million) and Jordan (628,000). ([Pew Research](#))
3. Germany has accepted 456,023 refugees and asylum seekers from Syria ([UNHCR](#)). The U.S. has resettled 18,007 Syrian refugees. ([Migration Policy Institute](#))

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