



WAYS TO WELCOME

AROUND WORLD REFUGEE DAY

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL





TAKING ACTION

© James Morgan

A year ago, Amnesty members like you made a powerful choice. When faced with the challenges of the world, some sought to build a taller wall. Instead, you built a longer table.

You hosted hundreds of events across the country in support of refugees, inviting them to break bread with you. You passed more than [55 "Welcoming" resolutions](#) that clearly established what your community will and won't stand for. You even sponsored refugee families directly, working with them to create a new home in your neighborhood.

Despite the overwhelming support for welcome refugees, sadly today, the fight continues. While on the one hand, more people than ever before face violence, persecution, or death if they return to their home countries; on the other, we've witnessed attack after attack by the Trump

administration against these individuals and families.

Damaging policies have made it harder for refugees to be resettled to the United States and the Trump administration has attempted to cut funding to support the integration of those that do. We even witness attacks against refugees themselves – people who are only seeking safety and security for themselves and their families.

This World Refugee Day, we're asking you to leverage the powerful actions your community has already taken locally and use it to hold your elected officials accountable.

This is your time to show that even when the national conversation is a mess – mayors, city council members, and schools are standing up for our collective values.



© Julia Weiss

We're asking you to host or participate in a call-in party to Members of Congress in support of the NO BAN Act around World Refugee Day on June 20th. During this time, we hope that your group invites local activists to take action in one place with the following powerful actions:

- Call your Members of Congress at **1-833-226-5217** in support of the NO BAN Act.
- Follow up with your Members of Congress with an email in support of the NO BAN Act.
- Call your elected officials – from your governor, to your mayor, to your city council member – telling them that you strongly support refugee rights and want them to continue taking actions in support of refugees locally and to support welcoming policies.
- Sign your name – digitally in our online petitions or physically by printing hard copy petitions – in support of the NO BAN Act and the resettlement of two families who have been abandoned abroad by Trump administration policies.

TAKE ACTION FOR THE NO BAN ACT

- Call 1-833-226-5217 and use the call script on p5
- Sign online: <https://act.amnestyusa.org/page/43117/action/1>
- Print and collect signatures on the hard copy petition on p10

TAKE ACTION FOR MALIK AND HIS FAMILY

- Sign online: <https://act.amnestyusa.org/page/43234/action/1>
- Print and collect signatures on the hard copy petition on p11

TAKE ACTION FOR THE AMARI FAMILY

- Sign online: <https://act.amnestyusa.org/page/43224/action/1>
- Print and collect signatures on the hard copy petition on p12



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Organizing a call-in party can be a fun and meaningful way to take action that brings community together and reminds us representation is only a phone call away. It can be hosted in your home or in a public space like a picnic in a park, where you can use it as a place for advocacy and also draw people in and build awareness. Just make sure you have a quiet place to make calls!

Feel free to pick a whimsical theme, like "Cupcakes and Calls," "Pizza and Petitions" or, our personal favorite, "Build a Longer Table and BBQ." However you choose to organize it, you'll want to plan for the following things:

1. **This should be fun!** Consider bringing food and entertainment for any participants, or making your gathering potluck-style.
2. **Get folks to call 1-833-226-5217** to be connected on a call with their Member of Congress' offices to thank or urge them to do more in support of refugees, including cosponsoring the NO BAN Act. See our guide on *How To Make Calls to Your Members of Congress* on p6.
3. **Invite** friends, family, neighbors, local resettlement offices, local faith leaders/houses of worship, and other community leaders to join you. See our additional resources around hosting community events in our toolkit *"Build a Longer Table with Refugees: Solutions and Actions You Can Take Today"* at www.amnestyusa.org/longertabletoolkit.
4. **Invite local press** to attend your call-in day, particularly local network television. You can find their news hotline online – call each local station (including your local FOX affiliate – they're not the same as FOX News!) a few days before your day of action, then the morning of the day of action to remind them. See our guide on *How To Earn Media Coverage of Your Event* on p7.
5. **Take photos** and share them with us at refugees@aiusa.org, along with a short update of how the event went (i.e. what the event was, how many people joined you, how many actions were taken, etc.). If you host an event and don't tell us about it, *it didn't happen!* (Make sure you get permission from any people you take photos of before you share them with us or online and let us know you got permission!) You can also add an event you're organizing to our Longer Table map (<https://longertable.amnestyusa.org/take-action>).



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HOW TO MAKE CALLS TO YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

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TIPS ON MAKING CALLS TO YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

- Telephone calls are usually initially taken by a staff assistant or an intern. Ask to speak with the aide who handles immigration issues. If they aren't available, leave a voicemail or direct message with whoever you're speaking with. You can request a call back.
- After identifying yourself as a constituent (say where you're from in the district/state), tell the staffer that you would like to leave a brief message.
- It's alright if you're calling after hours. Leave a message with the elected official and make sure they get back to you.
- If the Member of Congress has already cosponsored the **NO BAN Act** (H.R. 2214: www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2214/cosponsors), thank them and ask them to continue fighting for refugee rights and welcoming policies. (Don't know who your House Member is?: www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative)

If they haven't already, urge them to cosponsor the Guaranteed Refugee Admissions Ceiling Enhancement Act, otherwise known as the **GRACE Act** (H.R. 2164: www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2146/cosponsors), which would **prevent** the President from setting a Presidential Determination on refugee admissions – or the number of refugees that can be admitted into the U.S. for the coming fiscal year – at a level below 95,000, and ensure the U.S. government actually works to meet the goal we set.

CALL SCRIPT FOR THE NO BAN ACT

- Hello, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a constituent from [DISTRICT/CITY, STATE]. I'd like to leave a brief message for Representative [MEMBER'S LAST NAME].
- Please tell Representative [MEMBER'S LAST NAME] that I hope they will support the NO BAN Act (H.R. 2214), being led by Representative Judy Chu.
- Amnesty International USA is part of a diverse coalition of close to 400 human rights, civil rights, faith, national security, and community organizations who support the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act ("NO BAN Act").
- I am deeply concerned about this administration's relentless attacks on refugees and asylum seekers.
- From the travel ban on Muslim-majority country, attempts to limit the rights of asylum seekers, and damaging policies towards resettled refugees – the U.S. government's policies seem designed to keep people out, not assist those in need of humanitarian protection.
- The NO BAN Act is a much-needed step to ensure that no one can be banned based on their religion or nationality ever again.
- I urge Representative [MEMBER'S LAST NAME] to sign on as a cosponsor of the NO BAN Act.



HOW TO EARN MEDIA COVERAGE OF YOUR EVENT

1. **Send out a media advisory:** Media advisories inform and lure press into your event. They can help get your event on the daybooks, so make sure to send to calendar and assignment editors. You should send one-page advisories three weeks prior to the event. Alert journalists to your event with the basic facts: who, what, where, when and why.
2. **Make follow up calls to local broadcast stations:** A few days before the event, call the TV stations you want to cover your event. Speak to the assignment editors and ask if they received your media advisory. They'll usually say they haven't, in which case, send it again. Call back that same day and also again on the morning of the event.
3. **Distribute a press release:** Press releases are a good way to distribute information after your event and provide reporters with quotes for their story. You should keep press releases to one page. The release can look a lot like the advisory. Include details about the event (number of people who attended, impact, etc.) as well as a quote or two that reporters can plug into their story if they don't have time to contact you directly. You should always include the name of a spokesperson and their contact information. Send to news and/or local metro editors.
4. **Pitch directly to reporters:** Reaching out directly to reporters can also be a useful way to obtain media coverage. You can look up relevant reporters by checking the contact sections of the websites of your local outlets. You'll sometimes find a listing for news tips, or the contact info for an assignment editor. If that information is available, contact the general email or phone line, describe your event, and ask who the best contact would be to send an advisory or release. Contact reporters through email first and follow up by phone.
5. **Be persistent:** When crafting your pitch, use the most engaging and crucial information to convey your story idea. Take note that many reporters are on deadline, and if they are interested in your story, may pursue it very quickly or not at all. If you don't hear back, don't get discouraged!
6. **Report back coverage:** If your event or project is covered by the media, let us know! Send us a link when it's available.

Questions? Contact media@aiusa.org!



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TALKING ABOUT REFUGEE RIGHTS

- Right now, 25.4 million refugees worldwide are seeking a home, and more than half of them are children. Less than 1% will be resettled each year.
- Instead of welcoming refugees, the U.S. is closing its doors. The Trump administration capped annual refugee admissions to a historic low of 30,000 this fiscal year, implemented a series of severe restrictions which act as a de facto refugee ban, restricted access to asylum at the southern border for those fleeing violence and persecution, and proposed drastic cuts to funding for refugee programs and humanitarian aid.
- The society we want to live in is one where we take care of people who need safety. This is about looking after each other. Strong communities help people realize their potential, and welcoming others who also want to contribute makes society better for all.
- We want a world where every country does its bit. The solution is actually simple, if we could agree to a fair system for hosting people who can't go home. We all have a stake in making the world a safer place, and what includes making sure there are safe spaces for people who need them.
- All countries, including the United States, should protect dignity and fairness, and reject fear and prejudice.
- Refugees leave their homes because they have no other choice. They want the same safety that any of us would want if we were in their shoes. Refugees should be treated with compassion. They have done nothing wrong, and just want to be part of a safe community again.



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TIPS ON OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT REFUGEES WITH A CALL-IN DAY

1. Groups can capitalize on World Refugee Day events already happening – a google search can tell you if there is something nearby. Alternatively, we encourage you to check out this resource of planned events in your area (www.weareallusa.org/events) or to reach out to local advocacy groups to see if you can set up a table and action station there, to drive calls and petition signatures. If you're organizing your own event, make sure to upload it to our Longer Table map (<https://longertable.amnestyusa.org/take-action>).
2. If you're close to an Amnesty International USA office, reach out to your field organizer (if you don't know who your field organizer is, contact fieldorganizingteam@aiusa.org). Many will be opening their doors on World Refugee Day for you to take action.
3. If you are a student, consider engaging summer school classes at your local university or high school. Summer can be a great time for activism.
4. This is a great time to support local concerts and poetry slams. If you know of a local concert, open mic, or public event in your community, ask the organizers if they would be willing to support refugees as part of the day. Create a quiet space for people to make calls or write emails to their elected officials before or after the event, and ask the host to make an announcement from the stage in support of refugees. Or, better yet, ask them to make a live phone call to show how easy it is!



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KEEPING FOLKS ENGAGED IN TAKING ACTION

There might be folks at your gathering or table who can't make a call then and there, but would like to take and share out the action at their convenience. Print copies of this handout and the petition on p10 to pass out to them!

Act in support of refugees! Your Members of Congress need to hear from you – urge them to support the NO BAN Act! Take these actions below.



CALL 1-833-226-5217... to connect with your Members of Congress. Once connected, use this script:

- Hello, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I'm a constituent from [DISTRICT/CITY, STATE]. I'd like to leave a brief message for Representative [MEMBER'S LAST NAME].
- Please tell Representative [MEMBER'S LAST NAME] that I hope they will support the NO BAN Act (H.R. 2214), being led by Representative Judy Chu.
- From the travel ban on Muslim-majority countries, attempts to limit the rights of asylum seekers, and damaging policies towards resettled refugees – the U.S.' policies seem designed to keep people out, not assist those in need of humanitarian protection.
- The NO BAN Act is a much-needed step to ensure that no one can be banned based on their religion or nationality ever again.
- I urge Representative [MEMBER'S LAST NAME] to sign on as a cosponsor of the NO BAN Act.

WRITE A POSTCARD... to your Members of Congress and Senators. We will collect postcards in our DC office, then deliver them altogether to your Members. **Local postcards from your town or state are most effective**, but you can also request Amnesty postcards at www.amnestyusa.org/materials.

Send your postcards to our DC office address:

AIUSA Campaigns
600 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20003

Use this template when writing your postcards:

Dear Representative/Senator [MEMBER'S LAST NAME],

I urge you to support the NO BAN Act [*cite H.R. 2214 for Representatives or S. 1123 for Senators*] to ensure that no one can be banned based on religion or nationality ever again.

Optional to include: I am deeply concerned by U.S. government policies that seem designed to keep people out, instead of assisting those in need of humanitarian protection.

Sincerely,

[YOUR FULL NAME]
[YOUR FULL ADDRESS]

COLLECT PETITION SIGNATURES... to go to your Members of Congress and Senators. Print copies of the petition on the next page (p10) calling on them to support the NO BAN Act. We will collect petitions in our DC office, then deliver them altogether to your Members of Congress.

TELL YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: SUPPORT THE NO BAN ACT (H.R. 2214 AND S. 1123)



From even before taking office, the Trump administration has made it clear that it intends to turn its back on people in need of safety and a new home. Many are refugees and asylum seekers who fled from violence, torture and persecution in their home countries and simply hope for a chance to rebuild their lives in safety.

But instead of welcoming them, the administration has time and time again implemented dangerous and discriminatory policies blocking children, families and individuals from coming in to the U.S.

Among them are bans that arbitrarily bar anyone from several Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S., the implementation of extreme vetting procedures for refugees going through the resettlement process, despite the already arduous and years-long security process in place for refugees to be eligible for resettlement to the U.S., and the restriction of the universal right to access asylum at the border — in violation of U.S. law stating any individual can request asylum whether or not they are at an official port-of-entry.

These policies are not only cruel and senseless, they have manufactured crises of the administration's own making. Instead of making our country safe, these policies have endangered thousands of lives, torn families apart, and abandoned values long cherished by so many in the U.S.

While these unlawful restrictions are battled in the courts, Congress must step up to prevent the administration from carrying out these inhumane policies. Your Senators and Members of Congress need to hear from you, their constituents, that they must sign on to the NO BAN Act because you welcome refugees and do not support banning people because of who they are or where they come from.

SUPPORT THE NO BAN ACT (H.R. 2214/S. 1123)

Dear Representative/Senator,

I write to urge you to support for the National Origin-Based Anti-discrimination for Non-immigration ("NO BAN") Act and to support policies that welcome refugees and asylum-seekers, not prevent them from coming to the US. I am deeply concerned about the administration's actions concerning refugees and asylum seekers - from the travel ban on Muslim-majority countries, attempts to limit the rights of asylum-seekers, and damaging policies towards refugees who need urgent access to resettlement, the administration's policies seem designed to keep people out, not assist those in need of humanitarian protection.

The NO BAN Act (H.R. 2214/S. 1123) would:

- undo the animus-driven "Muslim ban" and check the President's ability to discriminate on the basis of religion;
- rescind the administration's attempt to unlawfully limit the right of asylum at the U.S. border; and
- remove needless obstacles for refugees urgently in need of resettlement to a third country, who are already subject to more vetting than any other group entering the U.S.

This bill is a much-needed step to ensure that no one can be banned based on their religion or nationality ever again. I urge the Representative/Senator to become a cosponsor of the NO BAN Act today, and support policies that welcome and support refugees and asylum-seekers.

Respectfully,

PRINT NAME:	SIGNATURE:	CITY/STATE/ZIP:	EMAIL:*

*Emails provided to stay connected with AIUSA. Emails will be removed before sending to government officials or foreign targets. Mail completed petitions back to AIUSA where they can be added to other petitions before being sent to the target. Petitions can be mailed to AIUSA Campaigns, 600 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite #500, Washington, D.C. 20003. Or email scanned petition copies to refugees@aiusa.org.

TELL THE U.S. TO KEEP ITS PROMISE TO REFUGEES LIKE MALIK

Malik* is an Iraqi refugee stranded with his family in Beirut, Lebanon, after the U.S. government failed to keep its promise to resettle him, his wife Sana* and their two sons, Tariq* and Yousef.* They fled Iraq in 2013, fearing for their lives because they are Christian, after years of harassment and discrimination.

Malik and his family thought their dream had come true: they were accepted for resettlement to the U.S. in 2016. Since that time, their case has been stuck in limbo — in “security checks” slowing down the resettlement process and effectively keeping out refugees for years if not forever.

Malik should be able to enjoy his human rights as a refugee, and should not live in limbo, without hope, because the United States failed to live up to its promise to resettle him. Tell the U.S. government to stand by its promise and admit refugees like Malik!

*Pseudonyms used to protect their privacy and security.

DON'T ABANDON REFUGEES LIKE MALIK AND HIS FAMILY!

Dear Acting Secretary McAleenan & Acting Director Koumans,

I urge you to exercise your authority to expedite the case of Malik, an Iraqi refugee already accepted for resettlement to the U.S. who is stranded in Beirut, Lebanon, due to the Administration's harmful policies on refugee resettlement.

Malik fled Baghdad in 2013 with his wife and two sons because they feared for their lives on account of their Christian faith. They were accepted for resettlement to the U.S. in 2016 and were awaiting the final step - being told to pack their bags for a flight to their new home in the U.S. - when the first Muslim ban was signed in January 2017.

As a result of delays caused by successive Muslim and refugee bans and additional security screening procedures, Malik and his family are stranded in Beirut. They cannot go back to Baghdad, where they fear for their lives. You must rectify this broken promise.

Malik and his family have been waiting to enter the U.S. for two-and-a-half years. They do not understand why they are waiting: “We are refugees, we’re human refugees, we’re refugees because there are difficult situations that made us flee...Please, so that we’re able to live. We want to live; we want to live in peace.”

The government's failure to resettle Malik and his family is a broken promise. I urge you to exercise your authority to expedite his case and bring Malik and his family to their new home.

Sincerely,

PRINT NAME:	SIGNATURE:	CITY/STATE/ZIP:	EMAIL:*

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TELL THE U.S. TO KEEP ITS PROMISE TO THE AMARI FAMILY

The Amari family are Syrian refugees stranded in Beirut, Lebanon, after the U.S. government failed to keep its promise to resettle Ahmed,* his wife Amina,* and their four young children - Amir* (4), Raja* (6), Mariyan* (9) and Hana* (11).

They were forced to flee Syria in 2013 because of the ongoing war, and in 2016, after over two and a half years of security review, the U.S. finally accepted them for resettlement. They gave away many of their belongings, as refugees about to be resettled often do, and prepared to travel to the U.S. in January 2017. When the first Muslim ban went into effect, they were left in jeopardy because of the Administration's discriminatory policies targeting refugees.

The Amari family should be able to enjoy their human rights as refugees, and should not live in insecurity and fear because the U.S. failed to live up to its promise to resettle them. All Ahmed and Amina hope for is their children to get an education — their children wish to be a doctor, orthopedist, surgeon, and designer, respectively. The U.S. accepted the Amari family for resettlement — and now it has abandoned them. Tell the U.S. government to stand by its promise and resettle people like the Amari family.

*Pseudonyms used to protect their privacy and security.

DON'T ABANDON REFUGEE FAMILIES LIKE AHMED, AMINA, AND THEIR FOUR YOUNG CHILDREN

Dear Acting Secretary McAleenan & Acting Director Koumans,

I urge you to exercise your authority to expedite the case of the Amari family, a Syrian refugee family already accepted for resettlement who is stranded in Beirut, Lebanon, due to the Administration's harmful policies on refugee resettlement. Ahmed, Amina, and their four children (ages four-, six-, nine- and eleven-years-old) are in an increasingly desperate situation in Beirut.

They were accepted for resettlement to the U.S. in 2016 and told their new home would be in Richmond, Virginia: "We felt at the time this was our new home."

They were awaiting the final step - to board a flight to their new home in the U.S. - when the first Muslim ban was signed in January 2017.

As a result of delays caused by successive Muslim and refugee bans and additional security screening procedures, the Amari family have been stranded in Beirut for two-and-a-half years. They cannot go back to Aleppo, where they fear for their lives.

The government's failure to resettle the Amari family is a broken promise. I urge you to exercise your authority to expedite their case and get the Amari family to safety here.

Sincerely,

PRINT NAME:	SIGNATURE:	CITY/STATE/ZIP:	EMAIL:*

*Emails provided to stay connected with AIUSA. Emails will be removed before sending to government officials or foreign targets. Mail completed petitions back to AIUSA where they can be added to other petitions before being sent to the target. Petitions can be mailed to AIUSA Campaigns, 600 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite #500, Washington, D.C. 20003. Or email scanned petition copies to refugees@aiusa.org.