

August 7, 2019

The Honorable Michael Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the 167 undersigned national, state and local Jewish organizations and institutions below, we write to express our shared grave concern about recent reports that the Administration is considering resettling zero refugees in the United States in FY2020. As Jewish organizations, we do not write today to convey our collective views on broader immigration policy, but we are committed to welcoming those fleeing violence, persecution, and war. We urge the United States to meet the resettlement admissions goal of 30,000 this fiscal year and return the Presidential Determination to historic norms for fiscal year 2020.

We are in the midst of the worst global refugee crisis since WWII. The global refugee population reached a record 25.9 million in 2018. Yet the Administration continues to cut its refugee resettlement admission targets and prevent those already approved to resettle in the United States from actually doing so. As a result, people fleeing for their lives with their families cannot find safety here.

The United States has historically distinguished itself as a beacon of hope and as a safe haven for those who most need it. For nearly 40 years, the refugee admissions target averaged 95,000 per year, with actual admissions averaging 80,000 refugees per year. Despite this, the Administration set the admissions ceiling to a historic low of 30,000 refugees in FY19. Furthermore, the U.S. fell behind Canada in 2018 as the top resettlement country, settling only 22,491 refugees. Resettling zero refugees in the U.S. in FY2020 would effectively gut the refugee resettlement program, violate our values as Jews and Americans, and abdicate the American promise of freedom and opportunity.

These actions – turning our backs on people fleeing for their lives – defy the proud promise indelibly inscribed on the Statute of Liberty. As Jews, we know all too well what happens when people fleeing for their lives have nowhere to turn. Our parents or grandparents, neighbors or community members once faced a similarly callous and unwelcoming world, with fatal consequences. The Jewish community has a particular moral responsibility that compels our commitment to welcoming refugees.

We urge the Department of State, in partnership with the other implementing agencies, to restore our country's refugee admissions cap to at least 95,000 for FY2020. The values of our nation and the safety and well-being of tens of thousands of refugees and their families depend on it.

Sincerely,

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**National Organizations:**

ACC (the American Conference of Cantors)

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League)

Agudath Israel of America  
Ameinu  
American Jewish World Service  
Avodah  
B'nai B'rith International  
Cantors Assembly  
CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis)  
Foundation for Ethnic Understanding  
Goldtree Training  
Habonim Dror North America  
HIAS  
International Rabbinic Fellowship  
J Street  
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Labor Committee  
Jewish Women International  
Jewish World Watch  
Keshet  
Men of Reform Judaism  
NCJW (National Council of Jewish Women)  
NCSEJ  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
New Jewish Outreach  
Orthodox Union  
Rabbinical Assembly  
Reconstructing Judaism  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Society for Humanistic Judaism  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
T'ruah  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Uri L'Tzedek  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Women's Rabbinic Network  
Women's League for Conservative Judaism  
Workmen's Circle

**Local and State Organizations and Institutions:**

**Arizona**

Arizona Jews for Justice!  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix  
NCJW Arizona Section  
Secular Humanist Jewish Circle, Tucson

**California**

Bet Tzedek Legal Services  
Community Shul of Montecito and Santa Barbara  
Congregation Kol Shofar  
Jewish Center for Justice  
Jewish Community Relations Committee of Greater Santa Barbara  
Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda  
and Contra Costa Counties  
Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles  
Jewish Family Service of the Desert  
Jewish Family Services of San Diego  
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley  
Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara  
Leo Baeck Temple  
NCJW California State Policy Advocates  
Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills

**Colorado**

Beth Ami - Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Colorado  
JEWISHcolorado

**Connecticut**

Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR)  
Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

**Delaware**

Jewish Family Services of Delaware

**Florida**

Beth Israel of Ocala, Florida  
Congregation Beth Adam South Florida Center for Humanistic Judaism  
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation  
NCJW Sarasota-Manatee Section  
South Florida Zionesses  
Temple Beth Sholom

**Georgia**

Jewish Educational Alliance  
Savannah Jewish Federation

**Illinois**

JCFS Chicago, Illinois  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Springfield  
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago

Jewish Federation of Springfield  
Mishkan Chicago  
NCJW South Cook Section

**Indiana**

Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council

**Kansas**

Jewish Community Relations Bureau, AJC  
Mid-Kansas Jewish Federation

**Kentucky**

Jewish Community Relations Council of Louisville  
Jewish Family & Career Services of Kentucky  
NCJW, Louisville Section

**Maryland**

Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, Bethesda  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington

**Massachusetts**

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek  
Jewish Community Relations Council, Greater Boston  
Jewish Vocational Service (JVS Boston)  
Massachusetts Board of Rabbis

**Michigan**

Detroit Center for Civil Discourse  
Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC – Detroit  
NCJW Michigan Section

**Minnesota**

Adath Jeshurun Congregation  
Adath Jeshurun Hesed Committee  
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis  
JHSUM  
Mount Zion Temple  
NCJW Minnesota Section  
Shir Tikvah Congregation

**Missouri**

Central Reform Congregation  
Congregation B'nai Amoona  
Congregation Shaare Emeth  
Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis  
NCJW St. Louis Section

**New Jersey**

Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest  
Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey  
Livingston Celebrates Israel  
Temple Emeth, Teaneck

**New York**

Buffalo JCRC  
Congregation Beth Abraham  
Congregation Kolot Chayeinu  
Congregation Mount Sinai  
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition  
Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee  
Temple Beth Am  
Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo  
Temple B'rith Kodesh  
Temple Chaverim of Plainview  
Temple Shaaray Tefila, New York City

**North Carolina**

Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte

**Ohio**

Cincinnati Jewish Community Relations Council  
Congregation Torat Emet  
JCC Grannie Group of Akron  
Jewish Family Services, Columbus  
NCJW Cleveland Section  
Rockdale Temple

**Oklahoma**

Jewish Federation of Tulsa

**Oregon**

Beit Haverim  
Congregation Beth Israel  
Havurah Shalom  
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland  
Kol Shalom

**Pennsylvania**

Beth El Temple  
JEVS Human Services  
Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) Pittsburgh  
Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg

Jewish Federation of Reading  
National Council of Jewish Women of Pennsylvania

**South Carolina**

Charleston Jewish Family Services  
Charleston Jewish Federation  
Community Relations Council of the Columbia Jewish Federation

**Tennessee**

Beth Sholom Synagogue  
Congregation Micah  
Jewish Community Partners, Memphis  
Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee  
Memphis Jewish Federation  
Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable  
Temple Israel  
The Temple, Congregation Ohabai Sholom

**Texas**

Congregation Beth Torah  
Jewish Family Service Houston  
Jewish Family Service of Dallas  
NCJW Austin Section  
NCJW Greater Dallas Section  
NCJW Texas State Policy Advocates  
Temple Shalom  
Tiferet Israel Congregation

**Washington**

Jewish Family Services of Seattle  
Kol HaNeshamah  
Temple De Hirsch Sinai

**Washington, D.C.**

Hill Havurah

**Wisconsin**

Beth Israel Sinai  
Coalition for Jewish Learning – Milwaukee  
Congregation Shalom  
Milwaukee Jewish Day School  
The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation