

## Resources for World Refugee Awareness

The All Faith Alliance for Refugees (AFAR) invites you to use these resources and ideas for World Refugee Awareness Week (June 15-21, 2019).

### Plan a Refugee Awareness Service using special liturgy, scripture, music, and stories.

- Jewish Resources:
  - Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism: <https://rac.org/refugees>
  - Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS): <https://www.hias.org/resources>
- Muslim Readings:
  - ارحموا من في الارض يرحمكم من في السماء  
Have mercy to those on earth, and the Lord of the Heavens will have mercy upon you. (Hadith for Prophet Mohammed peace upon on him.)
  - They feed with food the needy wretch, the orphan, and the prisoner, for love of Him, saying, "We wish for no reward nor thanks from you." Qur'an 76:8-9
  - "Treat with kindness your parents and kindred and orphans and those in need. Speak fair to the people." Qur'an 2:83
  - "Allah's Messenger said, 'Whosoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should not harm his neighbor, and whosoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should entertain his guest generously and whosoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should talk what is good or keep quiet (abstain from all kinds of evil and dirty talk).'" from the Book of Al-Adab (Good Manners) in the collection of hadiths of Sahih al-Bukhari
- Christian Resources:
  - Theology and scripture support from the UMC <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/civil-and-human-rights/immigration-to-the-united-states>
  - Refugee Sunday Worship resources from the Minnesota Council of Churches <http://www.mnchurches.org/refugeeservices/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Refugee-Sunday-Service-Planning-Materials.pdf>
  - Scripture on welcoming the stranger: <https://greateras1.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Scriptures-protecting-welcome-restoring-hope-final.pdf>
  - Prayers for Refugee Sunday from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service: [https://www.lirs.org/assets/2474/20180711\\_prayers\\_of\\_intercession.pdf](https://www.lirs.org/assets/2474/20180711_prayers_of_intercession.pdf)
  - World Refugee Day Resources from PC(USA): <http://pda.pcusa.org/page/world-refugee-day/>
  - World Refugee Day Resources from Global Ministries (Disciples of Christ and UCC): [https://www.globalministries.org/resources\\_special\\_days\\_wrd\\_index](https://www.globalministries.org/resources_special_days_wrd_index)
  - World Refugee Day Toolkit from Christian Reformed Church: <https://network.crcna.org/social-justice/world-refugee-day-toolkit>
  - Episcopal Church World Refugee Day Resources: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/world-refugee-day>

### **Learn about refugees: Find facts, stories, pictures and videos here:**

- United Nations World Refugee Day  
<https://www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/index.shtml>
- Refugee Council USA <http://www.rcusa.org/>
- Mid-Michigan stories and pictures in an exhibit, book and website:  
<http://refugelansing.us/>

### **Agencies that serve refugees in Mid-Michigan are eager to answer questions and to meet with congregations. Check out their websites for stories and facts to share. Follow them on Facebook. Invite directors to speak at your faith community or schedule a visit.**

- St. Vincent Catholic Charities Refugee Services: [stvcc.org/services/refugee-services/](http://stvcc.org/services/refugee-services/)
  - Judi Harris: [harrisj@stvcc.org](mailto:harrisj@stvcc.org)
- Refugee Development Center: <https://refugeedevelopmentcenter.org/>
  - Erika Brown Binion: [ebrown@rdclansing.org](mailto:ebrown@rdclansing.org)
- Samaritas: <https://www.samaritas.org/>
  - Michelle Haskell: [mhask@samaritas.org](mailto:mhask@samaritas.org)
- Global Institute of Lansing: <https://globalinstitutelansing.org/>
  - Paula Feddor Frantz: [globalinstitutelansing.org](http://globalinstitutelansing.org)

### **Attend an event during World Refugee Week**

- Visit an organization and meet refugees and learn about programs  
<http://stvcc.org/eventscpt/world-refugee-awareness-week/>

### **Host the Refuge Lansing exhibit with area stories and pictures presented through display boards, books and website. <http://www.refugelansing.us/>**

### **Collaborative groups—follow them on Facebook or sign up for emails**

- All Faith Alliance for Refugees (AFAR) connects the area refugee support agencies with the faith communities through emails and events.
- Immigrant and Refugee Resettlement Coalition (IRRC)—connects area refugee support agencies with community leaders such as schools, health department, employers, landlords

### **Advocate with lawmakers on behalf of refugee resettlement**

- Develop relationships with elected leaders
- Let them know you support refugee resettlement.
- Do an offering of letters to show your support for refugee resettlement. Bread for the World (<https://www.bread.org/get-offering-letters-toolkit>) has a toolkit that they use to help shape our government's response to hunger. This could be adapted to advocate for refugees.

### **Plan an educational series on refugees.**

- Publications on Islam and Refugees: <https://www.islamic-relief.org/refugees>
- HIAS Educational Program about the Refugee Crisis: [http://www.hias.org/sites/default/files/directions\\_for\\_acquiring\\_hias\\_do-it-yourself\\_educational\\_program\\_for\\_congregations.pdf](http://www.hias.org/sites/default/files/directions_for_acquiring_hias_do-it-yourself_educational_program_for_congregations.pdf)
- Dialogues on the Refugee Crisis, from Sparkhouse with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), with a student book and leaders guide: <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/product/24054/Dialogues-On-The-Refugee-Crisis-Learner-Book>
- Read about historic support from faith groups in the U.S. for refugees and recent decline among some white Christians, “Religion and refugees are deeply entwined in the US,” Dr. Stephanie Nawyn, MSU. <https://theconversation.com/religion-and-refugees-are-deeply-entwined-in-the-us-105923>

**Tell us your stories and share your pictures with us on Facebook with the ways you celebrated World Refugee Awareness Week.**