



There are
60 Million
Refugees in the
World today out
of 7.37 billion
people. The most
since World War II.



Refugees are people who, because of war, persecution and oppression, are forced to flee their homes, leaving behind all they have known for an uncertain future. They fear persecution in their

home countries, making them unable or unwilling to return. Many refugees live in refugee camps for a decade or more. In addition to refugees who were forced to flee their home countries, there are 33 million more people displaced within their home countries called internally displaced people (IDPs).

The UCC Response

Extending an extravagant welcome to refugees is an engaging way for churches to respond in faithfulness to the gospel mandate to "welcome the stranger."



Burmese Refugees Resettled in Texas, USA

Resettlement

The United States has the largest resettlement program in the world according to several sources including the UNHCR (visit www.unhcr.org for more information). It currently (2013-14) takes in about 70,000 refugees. The US decides annually how many refugees and IDPs it will accept. Of the 4 Million Syrian Refugees only 121 were taken in to the US. Many people have frowned upon our current response.

The UCC works through a co-sponsorship program with Church World Service refugee resettlement affiliates. Churches are only able to participate if they are located within a 50 mile radius of these affiliate office locations. Congregations are asked to help with prayer, English tutoring, a warm welcome at the airport, friendship, transportation, housing, furnishings, food, clothing enrollment of children in school enrollment, ESL classes, medical and dental check-ups, and more. Can you imagine going to a new country, having very little, knowing how nothing works, and possibly not speaking the language?

Advocacy

Raising Awareness is one of our priorities. We encourage members and friends of the UCC to advocate for refugees and immigrants. As people of faith, we are all called to speak up for those who cannot vote or who do not have a voice. Through the UCC Justice and Peace Advocacy Network, you can join in upholding the dignity of God's people whatever their nationality or status. To find out more information about advocacy issues log on to www.ucc.org/refugees and www.ucctakeaction.org.

The ACT Alliance.

Sign a petition. Urge the U.S. Congress and President to increase the number of total refugees from all parts of the world allowed into the United States for resettlement in 2016 as well as the particular number of Syrian refugees. Current reports of 10,000 new Syrian refugees is only taking that number away from refugees admitted from other parts of the world. The United States has the capacity to admit 100,000 Syrian refugees in this renewed crisis in addition to increasing the number of refugees resettled from other critical parts of the world. **Petition.**



God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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Responding to Refugee Emergencies Worldwide

Refugees Resettling in the USA

Commentary: The Kindness of Strangers

Refugees as an International Crisis

Global Ministries Middle East Initiative Monthly Webinar

Watch the Webinar from September 14, Rev. Dr. Riad Jarjour, Beirut, Lebanon

UCC Calls for more U.S. Response to Syrian Refugee Crisis

Refugee Crisis - What You Can Do?

Syrian & North African Refugees Seeking a Home



<http://www.ucc.org/refugees>

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Refugee Emergency Fund

[DONATE](#)

Select which fund you would like to support by clicking on the name of the fund below and following the instructions.

100% of funds designated for refugee emergency to the United Church of Christ are used for refugee assistance programming domestically or internationally.

OGHS: One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development actions.

Emergency USA Fund: Each year in the United States refugees are resettled and new immigrants face hurdles. Some situations are large enough to make the news. Designating your donation to a refugee or immigration emergency within the United States enables the United Church of Christ to be even more deeply involved in these emergencies than otherwise possible.

International Emergency Relief Fund: Millions of people around the world are forcibly displaced either within or beyond their national borders. The United Church of Christ through UCC/Disciples' Global Ministries and membership in worldwide church humanitarian organizations is well-placed to be deeply involved in refugee emergency relief and creating durable solutions for refugees. Donations to the International Emergency Fund enable the UCC to support specific refugee crises even more systemically and powerfully.

www.ucc.org/refugee_emergency_fund

Thank You!

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