



August 22, 2019

Dear LSSNCA Partners:

Over the past two and a half years, the United States has experienced a significant decline in the number of refugees admitted through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). For Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, the Trump Administration lowered the U.S. refugee admissions number from a goal of 110,000 set by the previous administration to 45,000; and for FY 2019, from 45,000 to 30,000 refugees.

With the looming 2020 fiscal year, the refugee resettlement community awaits the Presidential Determination (PD) on refugee admissions. It is believed, based on recent reports, that the PD may be set to zero, or admissions significantly lowered - meaning the U.S. is turning its back on individuals and families facing persecution and fleeing war abroad, and is dismantling the critical services and capacity of the U.S. resettlement program. Unsurprisingly, the Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) has greatly and negatively been impacted by the declining refugee admissions numbers.

Today, we ask you to lend us your voice and stand with refugees. We need your help to advocate for our newly arrived neighbors and community members. The U.S. has been the leader in third country refugee resettlement for over three decades. Refugee resettlement is a core to our American legacy and should remain so.

The U.S. has the capacity and ability to resettle at least 95,000 refugees in the next fiscal year. While this number remains less than one half of one percent of the total number of displaced persons and refugees worldwide, it would more than triple the current U.S. impact to those seeking refuge. We ask that you reach out to your elected officials and urge them to protect the U.S. legacy of welcoming refugees. Our elected leaders must hold the administration accountable of returning to this historic norm and setting the FY 2020 admissions goal to 95,000 refugees.

In this pressing appeal we urge you to utilize the tools and samples attached to write letters and make calls to your elected officials. It is particularly important to both make your ask specific - requesting the Trump Administration to set the FY 2020 refugee admissions goal to 95,000 - and to personalize your message with positive stories of how refugee resettlement has affected your life and benefited your community.

We thank you for your continued support and for taking immediate action on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mamadou Sy'.

Mamadou Sy, Ph.D.

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