



GREATER

as

ONE

#GreaterAs1

REFUGEES

WELCOME



CWS

Lunch and Learn

A series of educational webinars
for community members

2021 Series

**Advocating for Welcome: How to
Organize a Meeting with your
Representatives**

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, lit tealight candle. The hand is wearing a dark grey or black jacket. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a white cloth or paper and some colorful, indistinct shapes. The lighting is soft, highlighting the flame of the candle.

Church World Service
is a faith-based organization
transforming communities
around the globe through
just and sustainable
responses to hunger,
poverty, displacement
and disaster.

GoToWebinar Housekeeping



Automatically Muted



Raise Your Hand



Ask Questions



Presenters for today:

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea,
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<http://bit.ly/DisciplesRIM>



Why Advocate for Welcome?



Impacts on Legislators, Refugees, Ourselves

- *“They listened to me.”*
- *“Now it’s my City Hall. My country now.”*



What inspires your advocacy?



“Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the orphan. Fight for the rights of widows.” Isaiah 1:17

- Compassion (“look after the poor,” Lv. 23:22)
- Dignity & equality of all (“made in image of God²⁷,” Gen. 1:27)
- Social & economic justice (Lv. 25:13-18)
- Peace & reconciliation in communities (Mt. 5:9)
- Loving God=building love in community (Mt. 22:37-30)
- Care of earth for benefit of all (Gen. 1-2)

What strengthens our courage?

YOU have the power!

- As constituents
- Through stories
- Passionate values
- Because of relationships
- In partnership





How do we get started?

- Build a team
- Identify key issues
- Research
 - leaders
 - staff
 - legislation
 - targets



Tools to help you prep

CONGRESS.GOV Advanced Searches Browse

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Legislation Congressional Record Committees Members

Members Examples: Don Bacon, Wyden

Search GovTrack

Search for...

Afghan welcome

Bills and Resolutions

S. 2783: WELCOMED Act of 2021

H.R. 5168: WELCOMED Act of 2021

S. 2083: HOPE for Afghan SIVs Act of 2021

S. 2032: Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2021

H.R. 3513: Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2021

H.R. 3385: HOPE for Afghan SIVs Act of 2021

<https://www.congress.gov/>

<https://www.govtrack.us/>

& look on state sites, too!



Organizing your visit

- Schedule your meeting

<https://neguse.house.gov/>

<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/>

[sample request letter](#)

<https://neguse.house.gov/contact/request-meeting>

- Follow up, persist, confirm
- Assign roles & practice
- Share information
- Gather Leave Behinds



In the meeting...



- Record (with permission)
- BE SURE TO LISTEN & TAKE NOTES!
- Introduce, including “power,” purpose, participants
- Directly impacted voices centered
- 1-2 Stories
- Policy Ask/s
- Points of support for asks
- Re-cap, leave behind
- Ask how YOU can help them support you!

After the meeting



- Debrief
- Key take-aways
- Next steps beyond meeting?
- Email staffer & participants
 - [Sample follow up email](#)
 - THANK THEM!
 - Summarize asks
 - Include all leave behinds
 - Add add'l info.
(if requested by staffer)



Advocating to Welcome Afghans!

Sept. 30, FY 2022 Continuing
Resolution passed which allows:

- 1) Afghans who entered US with humanitarian parole are authorized to receive refugee resettlement benefits.
- 2) Gov't receives supplemental funding for Afghans, UACs, & other refugee populations
- 3) Gov't must expedite Afghan parolees' asylum applications
- 4) Afghans w/HP eligible for a driver's licenses or ID card

The U.S. is expecting tens of thousands of newly arriving Afghans in the coming weeks.

**WE ARE READY TO WELCOME
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM.**

CONGRESS, THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW.



Advocating to Welcome Afghans!



We still need the President & Congress to:

- Pass bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act (AAA)
- Plan for ongoing evacuation of vulnerable
- Create a categorical program for Afghan nationals
- Waive HP application fees

Advocating to Welcome Afghans!

<https://cwsglobal.org/take-action/action-alerts/>

TAKE ACTION: Tell Congress to Welcome Our Afghan Neighbors

Communities ready to welcome refugees and help them integrate and thrive are welcoming and assisting upwards of 75,000 vulnerable Afghans who have been evacuated from Afghanistan. Most of our new Afghan neighbors are entering the United States with “humanitarian parole,” which is temporary immigration relief and does not make them automatically eligible for refugee resettlement services. We need Congress to ...

TAKE ACTION: Urge the Biden Administration to Stop Expulsions of Haitians and Restore Asylum

This week, the Biden administration began ramping up deportation and expulsion flights of Haitian migrants and asylum seekers using the unlawful and immoral Title 42 policy – a policy started under the Trump administration and continuously misused by the Biden administration. Haiti is enduring compounding political and environmental conditions including the recent catastrophic 7.2 magnitude earthquake, political unrest, and rampant ...

Take Action Now: Urge Congress to Hold Biden Administration Accountable to Welcome Refugees and Rebuild Refugee Resettlement Program

On September 20th, President Biden proposed to set the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY2022) refugee admissions goal at 125,000. As we confront the worst global displacement crisis in history with more than 31 million refugees worldwide, and as countless vulnerable Afghans remain in imminent danger, this is a welcome step – but it is vital that Congress hold the Biden administration ...



Advocating to Welcome Afghans!



Make sure to REGISTER
NOW to join!

Early Bird Discount
extended-\$25

[https://cwsglobal.org/take-
action/together-we-welcome/](https://cwsglobal.org/take-action/together-we-welcome/)



Advocating to Welcome!

Let's Keep Advocating, to keep refugee resettlement one of the most effective, bi-partisan actions of our government & communities!



A Southeast Asian citizen of Iowa, who entered the US as a refugee, honors the tomb of 5-time Iowa Governor Ray, who played a key role in welcoming thousands of Southeast Asian refugees to the state.



**Thank you
for joining us!**

If you have further questions, please don't
hesitate to reach out to us at
refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org