

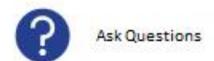


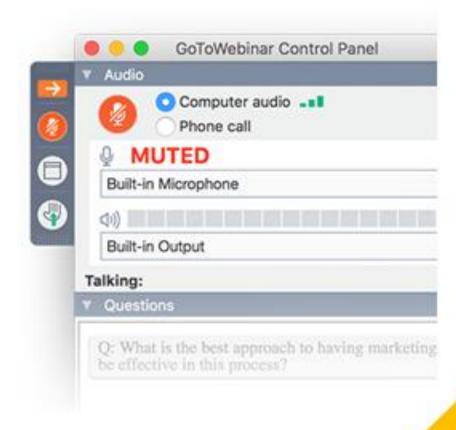
#### GoToWebinar Housekeeping





Raise Your Hand





## Presenters for today:

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries



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### 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



#### **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)



#### 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
- 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.





### 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



#### 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 ...





Español

Together We Welcome: A National Faith Gathering to Strengthen Support for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants NOVEMBER 7-11 | 6-9PM EDT

Make sure to REGISTER NOW to join!

Early Bird Discount extended-\$25

https://cwsglobal.org/takeaction/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.



