

Seeking the Welfare and Protection of Refugees – How You Can Help



Seeking the welfare of refugees begins by welcoming them into our communities and lives, recognizing that while they have suffered much and face many challenges, they also bring with them benefits and blessings for us all.

Each one of us can do something to welcome and love those who have been forcibly displaced in our world.

Get Informed & Inform Others

1. **Introduction to the Refugee Highway.** Watch, share and discuss this 9 minute IAFR media presentation with others (www.iafr.org/ministry-resources/multi-media).
2. **Map of the Refugee Highway.** Download and print this stunning and informative poster as a conversation starter (www.iafr.org/ministry-resources/map-of-highway).
3. **Social Media.** Make your social networks aware of refugee realities by following and promoting @IAFR on Twitter and liking IAFR on Facebook (www.facebook.com/refugeeministry).
4. **Refugee News.** Keep yourself informed about refugee news at www.iafr.org/news. Subscribe to IAFR's Refugee News email listing (www.iafr.org).
5. **Books and Movies.** We recommend starting with the book *Outcasts United*, by Warren St. John. Find other book and movie recommendations on www.iafr.org.
6. **Online Training.** Take advantage of the helpful training resources of IAFR to become better equipped to serve refugees (www.refugeeministrytraining.org).
7. **Outside Speakers.** Invite a refugee-expert to speak to your church or small group. Most refugee agencies are happy to serve in this capacity, including IAFR (www.iafr.org/contact-us).

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Watch & Pray

1. **Watch.** 1 in every 160 people today are forcibly displaced. We shouldn't be surprised to find them in our daily life. So be intentional and keep your eyes open for refugees, immigrants and migrants during your daily routine. Look for them while at work, school and church. Look for them in your community.
2. **Pray for opportunities** to love refugees, immigrants and migrants in your community. Don't be surprised when God puts such opportunities in your path.
3. **Walk Through a Drop-zone.** IAFR calls neighborhoods into which many refugees are resettled "drop-zones". We are happy to organize a "Walk Through a Drop-zone" with small groups designed to introduce you to refugee communities in your city. Contact us for details (www.iafr.org/contact-us).
4. **Pray for refugees** and forcibly displaced people. If you don't know where to start, check out www.iafr.org/get-involved/pray.

Help Refugees

1. **World Refugee Day** and **World Refugee Sunday.** We can offer encouragement and solidarity to the world's forcibly displaced people by observing these days and letting them know we have not forgotten them. Every year, UNHCR calls upon the world to observe June 20th as World Refugee Day, during which many cities offer opportunities to demonstrate solidarity with forcibly displaced people (e.g. www.tcworldrefugeeday.org). World Evangelical Alliance calls upon Christians everywhere to observe World Refugee Sunday on the Sunday before or after June 20th. The Refugee Highway Partnership offers resources to help churches observe this important day (www.refugeehighway.net).
2. **Bibles for Refugees.** When refugees flee their homes, few have opportunity to pack their Bibles. IAFR is partnering with refugee churches in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya (population 130,000) to provide them with Bibles. Not only is the Bible a source of hope and comfort, each donated Bible is a tangible expression that they are not forgotten by the church-at-large. Learn more at www.iafr.org.
3. **Rooftops for Refugee Churches.** Refugee camps are often found where the climate and living conditions are inhospitable. Refugee churches often struggle to find the resources to cover their mud and thatch church buildings with metal sheeting that protects them from the harsh elements. IAFR is partnering with refugee churches in Kenya and Malawi to help roof their buildings with metal sheets. The roofing gives them a safe meeting place to gather and worship, and communicates that they are not forgotten by the church-at-large. You can help (www.iafr.org/donate).
4. **Partner with Local Refugee Resettlement Agencies.** Contact a local refugee resettlement agency to learn how you and your church can partner with them to help a refugee family make your community their new home. Contact IAFR if you need assistance in identifying a local resettlement agency in your community (www.iafr.org/contact-us).
5. **Service Opportunities.** Contact Refugee Agencies to see how you can serve in volunteer, short-term and long-term capacities. We would love to hear from you (www.iafr.org/contact-us).

Hospitality and Relationship

The greatest thing any of us can do to welcome refugees into our communities is to extend relationship to them. While not as tangible as providing specific services or meeting practical needs, the ministry of hospitality brings comfort, peace and hope to the heart, mind and soul of those who have been uprooted.

"I was a stranger and you invited me in." –Jesus