Peace Corps Community for Refugees

Connecting the Peace Corps Community to Refugee Support Opportunities

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PCC4Refugees E-Newsletter!

Advocate and Support Refugee Resettlement

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers across the country continue to express their deep concern about the Trump administration's policies regarding the historically low levels of refugee admissions this year and its recent "zero tolerance" policy that separated more than 2,000 children from their immigrant parents at the U.S. border.

We are actively engaged in these issues and have encouraged RPCVs from 27 states to write letters and send 160 messages to their Senators in opposition to the nomination of Ronald Mortensen as assistant secretary of state for refugee and migration affairs. The nomination requires Senate approval, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is expected to take up the nomination soon. To learn more about this controversial nomination and submit a letter, go to this link.
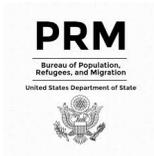
Mr. Mortensen's history centers around his extreme anti-refugee, anti-immigrant views. He has made offensive statements about immigrants, elected officials, including Senators McCain, Rubio, and Menendez, and his own Mormon faith for the church's humanitarian position on migrants. Certain Members of Congress have already announced they will not be supporting his nomination given his anti-immigrant views.

Latest News

PCC4Refugees hosts Media Conference call on US Refugee Resettlement

For World Refugee Day, PCC4Refugees hosted a media conference call that was attended by several members of national and local media. Adam Bates, policy counsel with the International Refugee Assistance Project, spoke about the state of the Special Immigrant Visa program. You can read more on our website and listen to the recording here.

Interfaith Mini-Toolkit to Oppose Nomination of Ron Mortensen

Please check out & share this new unbranded interfaith toolkit to equip faith communities to respond to the nomination of Mr. Mortensen, who would (if confirmed) oversee the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program within the US Department of State. The toolkit is linked here.

The toolkit contains the top 5 ways to take action:

- Faith Leaders: Click here to sign the faith letter opposing the Mortensen nomination
- Call Congress: Click here to tell your Senators to oppose the Mortensen nomination
- Amplify in Press Statements: Click here for a sample press statement to send to local media outlets
- Organizations: Click here to sign an organizational sign on letter opposing the Mortensen nomination

Education Your Community: Write to your local newspapers or media outlets through a Letter-to-the-Editor (LTE) or Opinion Editorial (op-ed). Click here for talking points. Use this tool to look up local newspapers and submit your LTE directly to them. A sample LTE is available in the interfaith toolkit.

Letter opposing Ron Mortensen's nomination

PCC4Refugees signed onto this letter with We Are All America works to strengthen support for refugees and asylum seekers in the US. They have other suggestions about ways to advocate and help using their toolkit.

Advocate and Spread the Word!

Please consider writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper in response to any stories about Mandy, or in response to stories on local refugee student graduates. It can be a short letter that references basic details of the article and encourages more positive stories and advocacy for refugee issues.

An advocacy letter could read as such:

As a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who strongly supports refugee resettlement, I encourage the Trump administration to reverse the government's dramatic reduction in refugee visas, which have reached the lowest levels in four decades. These reductions will result in thousands of people like XXXXXX (name of graduating student) missing out on the same opportunity to succeed.

Notable Refugee News Articles

The Wall Street Journal wrote an article titled [Americans Want an Immigration Deal](). According to a recent [report]() from the Pew Research Center, the share of Americans favoring such reductions has fallen since 2001 from 53% to 24%, while the share saying immigration should increase tripled from 10% to 32%. However, there is a continuing stalemate that benefits no one except hard-liners on both sides.

CNN posted an Article [The US is on track to admit the fewest number of refugees since the resettlement program began](). About 20,000 refugees are expected to have arrived in the year that ends September 30, according to two refugee advocacy groups' analyses of data from the State Department's [Refugee Processing Center](). About 16,000 refugees have entered the country so far this fiscal year, [the data show]().

[WBTV in Charlotte, North Carolina,]() aired a news report featuring the Director of the Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency, Marsha Hirsch, and presented an informative overview of the resettlement process for refugees and asylees. You can watch the feature [here.]()

TEDxKakumaCamp was the first TEDx event hosted in a refugee camp, with refugees, and also for refugees. It was curated by Melissa Fleming - UNHCR and Dana Hughes with support from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and volunteer teams.

TEDxKakumaCamp took place on Saturday, June 9, and was live streamed. you can learn more at www.tedxkakumacamp.org.

North Carolina Peace Corps Association

The North Carolina Peace Corps Association (NCPCA) kicked off a one-year commitment to refugee resettlement support with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) at their annual Peace Corps Night on June 30. Ivan Brown, president of NCPCA, introduced Scott Phillips, Regional Director USCRI North Carolina who was our guest speaker. Scott is a RPCV who served in Ukraine. He gave an update on the current refugee situation and what we can to to help those who are already here.

Host 2018 Teacher of the Year, Mandy Manning!

If you, your NPCA affiliate group, local Rotary club, or other organization is interested in hosting Mandy Manning for a visit or event, please fill out this form to request through the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), the coordinating organization.

Look for us at Peace Corps Connect!

Are you going to Peace Corps Connect? Please say hi to us! If you haven't registered yet, you can do so here.

Community Support Efforts

Learn what others in the Peace Corps Community and NPCA Affiliate Groups have been doing to support refugees in our featured Articles.

Articles

Utah RPCV Publishes Letter

Eric Goldman, an active member of PCC4Refugees who was featured at our conference presentations and in webinars, had a letter published in The Salt Lake Tribune opposing Ron Mortensen's nomination titled: Letter: Hatch and Lee shouldn't allow an immigration critic to dismantle Reagan's refugee system.

Volunteers working with refugees in Greece

PCC4Refugees is developing opportunities for RPCVs to provide direct assistance to refugees in Greece through NPCA's 'Next Step Travel' program. Thank you to all who responded to our survey. We have begun to identifying the sites and the skills needed. Please stay tuned for updates!

Are you serving refugees in your community? We would love to hear what you're up to! Your answers help us stay connected to Peace Corps Community efforts by sharing stories and experiences with others through outreach. Please take a short survey!

Helpful Resources

Find helpful resources for supporting refugees

Connect with Us:

Contact:

info@pcc4refugees.org

www.PCC4Refugees.org