



Peace Corps Community for Refugees

Connecting the Peace Corps Community to Refugee Support Opportunities

Today is World Refugee Day!

Today on [World Refugee Day \(June 20\)](#), mayors from more than 50 cities around the world, including Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Los Angeles, Manchester, Mexico City, New York, São Paulo and Sydney, are calling for more local authorities and municipalities to join them in welcoming and including refugees in their communities.

The Cities [#WithRefugees](#) initiative highlights the increasingly important role cities have taken on in accommodating refugees. Nearly two out of three refugees settle in urban areas whose residents are often the first to help refugees when they flee danger or later when they are resettled to new countries. You can read more on the UNHCR website [here](#).

Find events [#WithRefugees](#) across the country through UNHCR [here](#).

You also can read about how the US State Department is commemorating World Refugee Day [here](#).

What You Can Do to Support Refugees Today



Refugee arrivals to the U.S. have reached their lowest level in four decades putting our nation's entire system of community-based refugee resettlement at risk. At the same time, the Trump administration is imposing a “zero tolerance” policy on our southern borders, separating more than 2,000 immigrant children from their parents.

As a member of the Peace Corps Community for Refugees, will you take a few minutes over the next week to voice your opposition to the Trump’s administration’s policies to your local members of Congress?

Here’s an easy way to do this. Tell both your Senators that you oppose Ronald Mortensen’s nomination as assistant secretary of state for refugees and migration, a vital position shaping America’s immigration policy and our humanitarian response to the refugee crisis.

A fellow at the conservative Center for Immigration Studies, Mortensen is one of the nation's harshest critics of immigration reform even attacking Republican Senators John McCain and Marco Rubio, the Mormon Church, and evangelical leaders who support reform. This nomination is further evidence of the Trump administration's systematic campaign to dismantle the network of community-based non-profits (once over 320), mostly faith-based organizations, which have resettled refugees since the Refugee Act of 1980 became law.

To learn more about Mr. Mortensen, see this carefully researched [Atlantic Magazine article](#).

How easily can you tell your Senators? By going to their websites and stating your views or sending them letters by regular mail. A faster way? Just click-on the link below, fill out your personal information, review and adapt the sample letter, or write your own, and hit "Send." Your letter will automatically go to both Senators. You'll even get an immediate response confirming that your letters were sent. (The National Peace Corps Association generously provided this service.)

Here's the link to a sample letter for members of the Peace Corps community: <https://bit.ly/2JBBGQG>

Also, please consider writing a short letter in opposition to President Trump's policies on immigration and refugee assistance and his nomination of Mortensen to your local paper. For specific instructions on how to send your letter, Google the name of your newspaper and the words "How to submit a letter."



Advocate and Spread the Word!

Please consider writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper in response to any stories about local refugees. 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.



PCC4Refugees Team Reflects on WRD

World Refugee Day presents an opportunity for our team to reflect on why we do what we do on behalf of refugees and immigrants. We are all RPCVs or former Peace Corps staff who have been welcomed into the lives of people in other cultures and changed by that experience. Many of us have stayed connected with the countries in which we served, or sought ways to help refugee and immigrant communities in the U.S.

What brought us together more than a year ago was concern about the worldwide refugee crisis and U.S.

response to it. We wanted to share our personal reflections with you, fellow RPCVs and others in our Peace Corps community, as we work together on this global humanitarian effort. We invite you to read our stories here:

<https://www.pcc4refugees.org/articles/why-we-volunteer-for-peace-corps-community-for-refugees>



Affiliate Groups World Refugee Day Events

Santa Barbara Peace Corps Association

[Symposium on World Refugee Day](#)

Milwaukee Peace Corps Association

[MPCA at World Refugee Day](#)

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Richmond

RVR World Refugee Day Event

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](#)

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Contact:

info@pcc4refugees.org

www.PCC4Refugees.org