

### **The Episcopal Church and Refugee Resettlement and Protection**

The Episcopal Church has long supported a robust refugee resettlement program for those fleeing their countries to escape persecution, oppression, and war. Through the Episcopal Migration Ministries, our Church has worked in public-private partnership with the U.S. Government to resettle thousands of refugees since the inception of the program in 1980. The Episcopal Church is committed to continuing this tradition of welcoming refugees to peaceful homes and hopeful futures in the United States.

#### **Focus on Excellence in Services**

Episcopal Migration Ministries partners with local communities and congregations to offer integration and welcoming services to refugees upon arrival. In the decades since this ministry to “welcome the stranger” began, however, we have welcomed an ever-diversifying refugee population, including refugees from more than 69 nationalities, and an increasing number of refugees with serious medical conditions; refugees who are victims of torture and severe sexual-gender based violence; and more single female heads of household. Services such as language and job training, mentorship, and healthcare assistance ensure refugees are able to have the tools they need to succeed in their new communities. The Office of Government Relations interfaces with the U.S. federal government and Congress to ensure that these programs and services provided to refugees are effective, safe, and robustly funded.

#### **Focus on Community and Congregational Refugee Support**

The Episcopal Church provides resources and education to congregations and individuals on refugee resettlement and the global refugee crisis with an aim of equipping refugee advocates and allies. The Office of Government Relations regularly offers educational tools and advocacy opportunities to congregations and individuals to support their efforts to establish welcoming policies.

#### **Focus on Global Crises, Asylum, and Combatting Xenophobia**

The current global refugee crisis is the largest our world has ever seen. Leadership to utilize refugee resettlement as a life-saving tool in the response to refugee crises around the globe is more important than ever. Additionally, The Episcopal Church affirms the sanctity of asylum and condemns policies that aim to criminalize all migrants or weaken human rights protections for migrants. With a deep understanding of the dignity of every human being, The Episcopal Church strongly denounces the xenophobia that undergirds much of the anti-migrant and anti-refugee policies and treatment that exists around the world.

