

One United People:
A Dialogue on Refugee Resettlement
and Faithful Welcome

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

2:00pm

Episcopal Church Center, New York City

The Chapel of Christ the Lord

#FaithfulWelcome

#RefugeesWelcome

#UN4RefugeesMigrants



episcopal
MIGRATION MINISTRIES

A Prayer For Our Country

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer 1979

Order of Program

- Welcoming Remarks
 - The Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson, *Director of Episcopal Migration Ministries*
 - The Rev. Canon C.K. Robertson, Ph.D. *Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Beyond The Episcopal Church*
 - Karen AbuZayd, *Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants*
- Presentation
 - Lacy Broemel, *Refugee & Immigration Policy Analyst, The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations*
 - Allison Duvall, *Manager for Church Relations & Engagement, Episcopal Migration Ministries*
- Panel Discussion
- Closing

Welcoming Remarks

The Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson serves as the Director of Episcopal Migration Ministries, the refugee resettlement program of The Episcopal Church. Immediately prior to this work, he served as Domestic Poverty Missioner, working church-wide to help Episcopalians engage in ministry among the economically impoverished.

The Rev. Canon C. K. Robertson, Ph.D. is Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Beyond the Episcopal Church and Distinguished Visiting Professor at General Theological Seminary. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and several international boards, and the author and editor of many books. For more on his writings, go to www.ckrobertson.com.

Karen Koning AbuZayd (M.A. in Islamic Studies from McGill University) is the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. The summit will be held at the General Assembly on 19 September 2016.

Recently Karen has served as a pro bono Commissioner on the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, mandated by the 47 member UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. She retired from the UN in 2010 as Under Secretary General and Commissioner-General of UNRWA, based in Gaza since August 2000. From 1981-2000, she worked in various capacities for UNHCR in Sudan, Namibia, Sierra Leone (Chief of Mission), Bosnia (Chief of Mission), Geneva (Chef de Cabinet) and Washington (Regional Representative). Prior to her UN career, she taught Middle East Politics at Makerere University, Uganda, and Juba University, southern Sudan.

She has served on several refugee and humanitarian boards, among them UNRWA USA (Washington, D.C.), Americans for a Vibrant Palestinian Economy (Ramallah/Chicago), The Middle East Policy Council (Washington) and she is Chair of the Board of Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (Geneva).

In October 2015, she was named the 2015 Chicago Woman Extraordinaire by International Women Associates in Chicago.

Panelists

Since 2005, **Chris George** has been the Executive Director of Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS), a New Haven-based refugee resettlement agency affiliated with Episcopal Migration Ministries that welcomes 230 refugees every year to Connecticut. In 2016, IRIS expects to welcome more than 400 refugees.

Chris has spent most of his professional life in the Middle East: he worked seven years in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on USAID contracts; from 1994 to 1996, he was Executive Director of Human Rights Watch – Middle East; prior to that, he worked nine years with Save the Children US serving in the West Bank and Gaza, and then as Acting Regional Director for the Middle East. From 1982 to 1985 Chris served with the American Friends Service Committee and Church World Service in Lebanon, monitoring human rights conditions and directing relief programs. Chris began his international career in 1977 as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Muscat, Oman. Altogether, he spent more than 16 years living in the Middle East. He speaks Arabic.

Akram Hussein arrived in the United States through the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program in 2012. Over the past several years he has been a dedicated volunteer interpreter for IRIS, Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Service, the agency responsible for his resettlement. In 2016 Akram joined the IRIS staff as a case manager, providing critical services to refugees after their 90th day in the United States. Further, Akram was a founding member of the IRIS Refugee Representatives group, a collection of refugee alumni who assist newly arrived clients during their initial resettlement period. He continues to act as a committed member and leader in this group.

Akram is a recent graduate of University of New Haven, where he pursued his Masters in Computer Science. Akram also holds a Masters degree in Computer Engineering from Istanbul University. Akram was born in Mosul, Iraq. He is fluent in Arabic, Turkish, and English.

James Naddeo is the president and co-founder of Danbury Area Refugee Assistance (DARA), a Connecticut-based nonprofit organization resettling and providing advocacy and support for refugees as they work toward self-sufficiency to become productive members of our community. Their efforts began in October of 2015 when James organized an informational meeting in partnership with IRIS to help educate and inform the community about the larger humanitarian crisis, and specifically

about what residents in Connecticut could do to help. The group is comprised of neighbors from the Greater Danbury area, both believers and nonbelievers. One of the main areas of focus for DARA going forward will be supporting education opportunities for refugees, empowering them by helping to build the skills necessary to thrive in our modern economy.

Abdul Saboor was born in the Herat province of Afghanistan and graduated from high school in the capital city of Kabul. As a seventeen year old he started working with the U.S. military and Department of State as an office assistant. In 2010, Abdul was promoted to a full time cultural advisor, teaching Afghan culture and counterinsurgency classes to NATO and US soldiers. He was promoted in 2012 and tasked with helping implementing counterinsurgency theory on behalf of USAID. Abdul served in this role until he left the country. While in Afghanistan, Abdul began coursework at the American University of Afghanistan.

Mr. Saboor came to the United States as an S.I.V. with his wife from Afghanistan in 2014. Within weeks, Abdul was volunteering for InterFaith Works' Center for New Americans and was later named the Match Grant Coordinator for the Center, a position he presently holds. As an SIV, Abdul has gone through the whole refugee resettlement experience and uses his background and experience in his primary role of delivering job opportunities to newly arriving families - while helping them meet their most basic needs in successfully resettling in their new country.

Once in the United States, Abdul resumed his education and received his Associates Degree from Onondaga Community College in May 2016. He is now pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School. Abdul and his wife reside in Syracuse, NY.

In 2010 during his time and service to US Military he was the recipient of the Superior Civilian Service Award and in 2015 he received the Community Service Award from Turkish Culture Center.

Maher Shakir is an Iraqi-born refugee now living in Connecticut. After working for the US government in Baghdad in 2012, Maher and his family were forced to flee the city after receiving multiple death threats from Al-Qaeda, and the attempted assassination of his father. They left their homes and their extended family with little more than the clothes on their back. After spending some time in Jordan and elsewhere, the family settled in New Haven with the help of Integrated Refugee &

Immigrant Services (IRIS), where they have been living for the past two years.

Maher, a college graduate, is a professional photographer and videographer whose works have been featured in the New Haven Museum among other galleries and venues. Maher is also an actor in the play, "Voices From The Long War," a showcase that places U.S. Army veterans alongside Afghan and Iraqi refugees to hear their stories and understand more fully what the war they experienced was like. The show will be coming to the David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center this fall.

Jean Silk is the Coordinator of the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR) in the Greater New Haven area of Connecticut. Jean is a member of Temple Emanuel of Orange, Connecticut and has served on the Board of Directors for many years; she is Chair of the Tikkun Olam Committee, Chair of the Leave a Legacy Committee, and serves on the committee for Adult Education. She was President of Temple Emanuel 2008-2010.

Professionally, Jean's career has focused on international education and non-profit management. She was the Program Manager of the Council on Latin American & Iberian Studies at Yale University, 2004-2015. Prior to that, she was the Executive Director of the New Haven/León (Nicaragua) Sister City Project. Jean is enthusiastic about her work with the Jewish community to co-sponsor new refugee families in the Greater New Haven area.

Jay Subedi was born in Southern Bhutan. He became a refugee when he was 12 years old, when The Royal government of Bhutan forced his family to leave the country. He and his family lived in a refugee camp in Nepal for 18 years. In November 2008, he came to the US with his wife and parents.

His first job in the United States was at Subway; at the same time, he started to work as the Nepali interpreter at the Interfaith Works of Central New York's Center for New Americans. In 2009, he was hired by Interfaith Works as a case manager, and this past March, he became the Housing Coordinator. Jai is a Citizens Cabinet member for the City of Syracuse; is a small business owner; serves of the Onondaga Citizen League's board of directors; and was formerly the President of the Bhutanese Community in Syracuse. He has been a member of the board and president of the Butternut Police Center, and continues to work closely with the Syracuse Police Department, building relationships between the police and the refugee community.