



# Advocacy Update

## Call on President Obama and Congress to Address the Refugee Crisis

Sent September 10, 2015

As we watch boats of migrants, displaced by violence and poverty in the Middle East, seek refuge abroad, we must ask ourselves how we can show our support. Today, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism released this action alert, where you can [call for President Obama and the U.S. Congress to address the crisis by increasing the number of refugees welcome in the U.S. and urging European leaders to do the same for their countries](#). You can read their full message below and also [access additional information and action suggestions about this important issue](#):

*The crisis of Middle Eastern refugees from Syria and elsewhere is the most pressing refugee crisis since World War II. It has added to a global situation in which more than 60 million people worldwide are displaced. Unfortunately, the U.S. currently caps the number of refugees for Fiscal Year 2015 at 70,000. Sadly, that number is not enough to respond to the global challenge before us. The U.S. can play a vital leadership role by accepting additional refugees, urging European and other nations to accept more refugees, and by addressing the root causes of the crisis.*

*As Jews with deep connections to Israel we have long known of Syrian President Assad's barbarism, reflected in atrocities inflicted on his own people. The crisis of Syrian refugees is now adding to the growing numbers of persons displaced by violence in the broader region and in Africa as well. Of course, as Jews our own deep memories of the plight of our grandparents and great grandparents who were refugees in an unwelcoming Europe after the Shoah we are moved to act as we see others struggling to find sanctuary.*

*Repelled often in times of greatest need, Jews recognize the necessity for havens for the persecuted. We are instructed in the Holiness Code (Lev. 19:33) to take to heart the lessons of our own history by treating aliens in our midst with justice and compassion. "The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."*

*The growing and urgent crisis of the millions of Middle Eastern refugees who have been forced to flee their homes because of ongoing violence challenges and pains us; and we call on Congress and the Administration to act now.*

***Urge President Obama and Congress to help address a humanitarian crisis by increasing the number of refugees welcomed in the U.S. by 100,000 (above the already approved 70,000) and by calling on European leaders and others to increase the number of refugees welcomed into their countries.***