

How You Can Help October 15, 2015

As of June 2015, the UNHCR reported that there are more than 60 million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people worldwide – the highest level ever recorded. Of the 60 million displaced, half are children.

The United Nations has deemed this the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II. While the crisis in Syria has dominated the media, it is important to remember, hold in prayer, advocate for, and support refugees from conflict zones across the globe - as well as the countries that host them.

There are several things you can do locally to have an impact on this worldwide tragedy. They are:

**Welcome** New Americans to Your Community: The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society's Episcopal Migration Ministries works through a network of 30 local agencies in 22 states. Volunteer with one of our local resettlement partners to welcome new Americans: <u>http://bit.ly/EMMpartners</u>.

**Join** the <u>#RefugeesWelcome</u> global social media campaign urging governments to welcome refugees to their countries.

**Join** the Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN)! The EPPN is a grassroots network of Episcopalians dedicated to striving for justice and peace. Through our action center, you contact your member of Congress directly via email, participate in direct advocacy, and spread awareness in your community. Visit this website to join the EPPN: <u>http://tinyurl.com/JoinEPPN</u>, or contact Lacy Broemel, Ibroemel@episcopalchurch.org, 202-547-7300.

**Follow** Episcopal Migration Ministries on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>. Share news articles and stories online and through your social media networks. Generate discussions in your community about the issues refugees are facing.

**Educate**: If you're a teacher, use <u>UNHCR's toolkit</u> for teaching young people about migration and refugees.

**Pray**: If you are in a congregation, use the <u>Prayer for Syria</u> as part of your Sunday or daily worship or these <u>Prayers of the People for Refugees and Displaced People</u> written by Alyssa Stebbing, Outreach Director at Trinity Episcopal Church, The Woodlands.