



# #RefugeesWelcomePA Toolkit



**Day of Action- December 10, 2015**

Many national figures are using the tragic events in Paris and Beirut as a reason to promote anti-refugee hatred and fear and promote legislation to limit the resettlement of Syrian and all refugees into the United States. In November the House passed H.R 4038, the “*American Security Against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act of 2015*” which makes it nearly impossible to resettle refugees especially from Syria and Iraq.

PICC is committed to building a welcoming Pennsylvania and ensuring that all refugee and immigrant communities are treated with dignity and respect. **Please join PICC and Pennsylvania refugee resettlement organizations on December 10, 2015 for #RefugeesWelcomePA Day of Action.**

This toolkit includes 3 easy ways for advocates and allies to support and welcome refugees in Pennsylvania.

To help maximize impact, we encourage you to participate during our day of action on **December 10, 2015** by:

- Sharing this toolkit with your organizational members, friends and family before Dec. 10
- Sharing your support on social media. Schedule reminders leading up to our day of action on your Facebook and twitter accounts for Dec. 10
- Calling your Senator/Representatives
- Learning and attending refugee events

## 1. CALL-IN DAY

**Call your federal and state representatives today and tell them to keep the doors open for refugees.**

- For **federal representatives** call **1-866-961-4293** (Operator will connect you). Look up your representative at: <http://www.house.gov/> and senator at: <http://www.senate.gov>
- For **Pennsylvania representatives** please visit <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/> to find your legislator and contact information.

\*Don't forget to contact Senator Toomey **202-224-4254** and tell him to do the right thing: welcome refugee communities.

**Sample Script:** *[Name or Representative], I'm a constituent from [City] and I support refugee resettlement in the U.S. I urge you to say no to hatred and fear and stand up for our values of welcoming everyone regardless of their race and religion. Please oppose any legislation that would halt or restrict funding to the U.S. refugee resettlement program*



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**SAY THANK YOU!** Call Governor Tom Wolf and Senator Casey today to say thank you for supporting and welcoming refugees to Pennsylvania!

- **Governor Tom Wolf** 717-878-2500
- **Senator Casey** 202-224-6324

**Sample Script:** *Governor Tom Wolf/Senator Casey, my name is [Name]. I am a resident from [City], PA. I am calling today to say thank you for standing and defending refugees by welcoming them to our state.*

## 2. Social Media

Social media is an important tool for raising awareness of issues. We encourage you to regularly post and share information about refugees on your personal and organizational accounts. Use our sample tweets, Facebook posts and shareable images on your social media accounts

Use **#RefugeesWelcome** and **#RefugeesWelcomePA** to amplify your voice!

You can find your Senators' and Representatives' Twitter handles on their websites, or at <https://twitter.com/cspan/lists/members-of-congress/members>

### Sample Tweets:

- Tell your Representative/Senator to keep the doors open for refugees. Call 1-866-961-4293 TODAY! #RefugeesWelcome #RefugeesWelcomePA
- #Pennsylvania stands for welcoming refugees @SenToomey [add other @RepName here] #RefugeesWelcomePA
- I stand with Syrian & all refugees because ... @SenToomey #RefugeesWelcomePA (56 letters left)
- The U.S. can do more to resettle and protect #refugees. #RefugeesWelcomePA @[RepNamehere]
- Tell your Representative/Senator to vote for #refugee protection bills! #RefugeesWelcomePA @[RepNamehere]
- Thank you @ GovernorTomWolf & @SenBobCasey for keeping doors open to Syrian & Iraqi refugees in Pennsylvania #RefugeesWelcomePA

Retweet, like and share PICC @paimmigrant and [www.facebook.com/paimmigrant](http://www.facebook.com/paimmigrant) posts



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## 3. Get involved

- **Events** Attend local events and learn more about refugee resettlement. List of upcoming events during the week of Dec 10:
  - **Tuesday, Dec 8- Syrian Refugee Crisis Teach-In, Haverford College**  
**Location and Time:** Haverford College, 106 Multicultural Center (MCC), 4:30-6:00 pm  
(see link for more information) <http://tinyurl.com/hagphrl>
  - **Thursday, Dec 10- Interfaith Prayer Vigil**  
Candlelight interfaith prayer vigil followed immediately by a UNAGP Program in the Ethical Society on *"The Global Refugee Crisis: Philadelphia's Response"*.  
**Date and Time:** Thursday, Dec 10, 2015, 5:00-5:45 pm (vigil), 6:00 pm (program)  
**Location:** SW corner of Rittenhouse Square (vigil), Program at the Ethical Society, 1906 Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia PA 19103
- **Learn and support**

Many organizations have programs, events, and sign on letters to urge legislators to take action and support refugee resettlement. Below you will find some links to help you learn and connect with local organizations:

- **Info Graphic for Screening Process for Refugees to Entry into the US**  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/11/20/infographic-screening-process-refugee-entry-united-states>
  - **Church World Service** <http://cwsglobal.org/our-work/you-can-help-syrian-refugees/>
  - **HIAS Pennsylvania** <http://hiaspa.org/Support-US-Refugee-Program>
  - **HIAS National - 1000 Rabbis Sign Letter in Support of Refugees**  
<http://www.hias.org/1000-rabbis-sign-letter-support-welcoming-refugees>
  - **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service letter** <http://tinyurl.com/protect-syrian-refugees>
  - **US Refugee Council** <http://www.rcusa.org>
- **Volunteer** Find your local organization and volunteer today!

For more information please contact Maria Sotomayor at [mariasotomayor@paimmigrant.org](mailto:mariasotomayor@paimmigrant.org) or 215-832-3482 or visit [www.paimmigrant.org](http://www.paimmigrant.org).

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Sincerely,

PICC