



STATEMENT—In Response to the Trump Administration’s FY19 Refugee Resettlement Ceiling

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Today, the White House announced a sharp reduction in the number of refugees who can be resettled in the United States. The Trump Administration has set a cap of 30,000 refugee admissions for FY19, a 33% reduction from last year when the cap was set at 45,000 individuals. Of the 45,000 cap set for 2018, and because of administrative hurdles, less than 50% of refugees arrived.

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) is dismayed by the administration’s efforts to scale back a program intended to offer protection to individuals and families victimized by persecution and caught in the crosshairs of war. Today, there are over 68 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide and 25.4 million refugees, over half of whom are children, yet our country will be admitting the lowest number of refugees since the programs creation in 1980, including the number admitted following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Since 1917, LSS/NCA has aided the most vulnerable among us, and since World War II, it has resettled thousands of displaced persons and refugees. We are proud of our agency’s history and steadfast in the American tradition that has offered welcome, freedom, and safety to generations of immigrants and new American citizens.

LSS/NCA CEO Christine Connell said, “This is not the time to limit lifesaving services to our worldwide neighbors in crisis. At this urgent moment of disproportionate global displacement, it is more important than ever before to demonstrate the love and compassion that has defined our faith and organization for over 100 years.”

Due to this incredible reduction in refugee resettlement, LSS/NCA expects to be limited in the number of arriving refugee families we can help in the upcoming year. However, we are still providing mentorship, employment workshops, and individual case management to the hundreds of refugees who arrived in the past few years and to Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders who have provided necessary services to our country even at their own risk. In addition, we continue to provide foster homes to unaccompanied refugee youth, immigration services to those seeking residency or citizenship in the United States, and advocacy opportunities for community members to speak for the millions of refugees who will no longer have the opportunity to build a home and a better future for their children.

[Increase refugee advocacy efforts and support LSS/NCA programming by visiting our donation page today.](#)

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Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) has devoted over a century to SERVING BOLDLY, offering hope and mobilizing communities to serve the most vulnerable among us. LSS/NCA is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization that serves more than 2,000 families and children in crisis throughout the Greater Metro-DC region through Family and Children’s Services and Refugee & Immigrant Services. LSS/NCA does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, age, race, creed, gender, or sexual orientation.