



## **STATEMENT—In Response to the Supreme Court’s Decision regarding the Travel Ban and Refugee Resettlement**

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Washington, DC—For 100 years, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) has heeded the call to aid the most vulnerable among us, and since World War II, it has resettled thousands of displaced persons and refugees including families fleeing war, unaccompanied refugee minors, and those persecuted for their faith. We are disappointed with the Supreme Court decision that will allow a portion of the travel ban to go forward until the Executive Order can be reviewed in its entirety this fall.

The decision’s direct implications on LSS/NCA programs and our ability to serve the refugee community are still being evaluated and discussed with our national affiliate and federal partners. However, this decision comes at a time when worldwide displacement is now the worst in record history. Individuals and families, to whom the U.S. has historically offered protection, will be denied safety and opportunity despite having been appropriately vetted through multiple security and intelligence agencies. With our local and national partners, we encourage the administration to conduct its review of the refugee vetting process as quickly as possible, and in good faith, towards the shared goal of continuing to protect the safety and security of our country, while continuing to offer the freedom and prosperity that has defined generations of immigrants in our great nation.

LSS/NCA CEO Christine Connell said, “At LSS/NCA, our faith calls us to welcome the stranger and walk with those in need. We have seen this commitment in every donor, congregation, community partner, staff member, and volunteer. While the decision may impede our ability to offer aid and protect the most vulnerable worldwide, our call to demonstrate the love and compassion that defines our faith and organization is undeterred.”

Where others see problems too great to solve, where popular opinion supports the status quo, where red tape, reticence and road blocks abound, we dedicate our hearts and hands and minds to the mission of compassion, mercy and love. To support refugee families and children, please visit our [“Stand with Refugees” page](#) and continue to check our website for updates as we continue to learn more about the decision’s implications.

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*Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) has devoted 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 Children’s Services and Refugee & Immigrant Services. LSS/NCA does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, age, race, creed, gender, or sexual orientation.*