



Holiday Guide: Sharing Why You Care About Refugees and Immigrants



It's the holidays! Which means lots of time with family and friends, and likely some difficult conversations. Here are some ways that you can talk about refugees and immigrants, but the most important thing is sharing why this is important to you.



Welcoming Refugees is Who We Are

The U.S. welcomes refugees who have nowhere else to go. Resettlement is the last resort for people who have been persecuted for their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or social group. Congregations and community members across the U.S. built the refugee resettlement program more than 40 years ago to welcome and help vulnerable people rebuild their lives. Refugees quickly find work, pay taxes, and enrich their new communities.



Our Values Are Rooted in Compassion

Immigrants love their families and have hopes and dreams for the future. They are moms and dads, sons and daughters, looking for a safe place to call home. Immigrants and refugees deserve our welcome and compassion, not hatred and fear. We would certainly want to be welcomed if we were in a similar situation, and some of our proudest moments as a country are when we have demonstrated hospitality.



All Families Deserve a Safe Place to Call Home



Families are fleeing violence in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. They are seeking safety wherever they can find it - within Central America, in Mexico, and some in the U.S. Policies to turn people away, send them back to harm, and separate families are inhumane. It is absolutely legal for people to seek asylum wherever they are - at a port of entry, between ports of entry, or anywhere in the U.S. Everyone's case should be heard by an immigration judge.



Immigration is an American Tradition

Does grandma talk about how her parents celebrated holidays with traditions from their home country? They were immigrants! This country was built by our ancestors who arrived with little in their pockets but hopes of creating a better life. A person's "merit" is not be defined by their past education or employment. Immigrants bring the diversity and resiliency that we need to be strong. They start businesses, create jobs, and give back to their communities.

