

Refugee Ministry 101

A 3-hour workshop developed in response to the “Syrian” refugee crisis and all refugees.

Diocese of Massachusetts; December 12, 2015. By Holly Hartman, Deacon for Global Mission Partnerships;
Laura Walta, Director of Global Mission; Suffragan Bishop Gayle Harris.

Refugee Ministry 101 - Outline

- I. Welcome, Opening Prayer, Remarks by Bishop Gayle Harris
- II. Refugees in Our World- past and present
- III. Refugees in the US
- IV. Refugee Ministry- Why Do We Care? Biblical Foundations
- V. Episcopal Church response to current refugee crisis
- VI. What your parish can do

See Slideshow for presentation slides.

The following resources were shared during the presentation:

NU DAY SYRIA

More ways to help Syrian Refugees:

NuDay Syria
14 Ellyson Ave,
East Hampstead, NH 03826
(857) 244-1695

We are continually learning how to help the people whose lives have been devastated by the chaos and violence in Syria. I've been focused in the past month on learning how to help migrants and refugees from across the globe as they are resettled through the Episcopal Church's partner agency, Ascentria. Yesterday I learned another way to help the people who are in Syria and the surrounding countries. I had the good fortune to meet Karen from the Episcopal church in Holden. She told me about an incredible, local organization she has discovered and is contributing her time to that is doing amazing work. Its name is [NuDay Syria](#).

Syria's mothers, children, and families need each of us to be their catalysts for aid. They need us to find ways to help, food to send, and shelters to support. NuDay Syria has no overhead and ensures all donations go for on the ground aid and aid-related expenses such as shipping and transportation of containers. We focus on women with no male breadwinners and their families. Many of these women have crossed the border to avoid military and political persecution - only to find themselves in dire circumstances with few options to safeguard their children and themselves with dignity. We send aid into Syria and bordering countries, keeping the mothers and their priorities and needs in mind.

We can support them by collecting items to ship overseas, by donating money, and by volunteering at their main office in Southern New Hampshire.

Here are a couple of videos highlighting their work:

[NuDay Syria One Person at a Time](#)

[NuDay Syria One Humanitarian Container at a Time](#)

To make a financial donation now click the Donate button on [their homepage](#)

IN-KIND DONATIONS

- Rice, beans, powdered and liquid infant and regular milk, tuna, protein bars, flour, sugar, cooking oil
- New to like-new clothes, bedding, shoes
- Soccer balls, stuffed animals, colors, non-battery operated toys
- Diapers, female pads, soap bars, powdered detergent, toothbrushes, pain killers, vitamins
- Hospital equipment, walkers, wheelchairs, medical supplies

DROP OFF LOCATIONS FOR IN-KIND DONATIONS

- Selimiye Mosque, 105 Oakland Ave, Methuen, MA (drop off anytime)
- 1 Oak St, Burlington, MA (front of home garage)
- 9 Edward Lane, Quincy, MA (inside home garage)
- 14 Ellyson Ave, East Hampstead, NH (front porch)
- Sharon Mosque, 86 Chase Dr, Sharon, MA
- Old Worcester Mosque, 248 East Mountain St, Worcester, MA
- West Springfield Mosque, 377 Amostown Rd, W Springfield, MA
- Al-Rahman Mosque, 18 Dannel Ln, Pawtucket, RI

Please sort things into labeled boxes or strong, white labeled trash bags

GET POLITICALLY INVOLVED

Call your Governor, Representative and Senators

Last week, a number of Governors announced that they want to stop their states from resettling Syrian refugees. The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 4038, The American Security Against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act, which would grind to a halt the resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees. Calls are needed to your elected officials as decisions are being made that will impact the lives of refugees.

Dial 1-866-961-4293. This number will provide brief instructions and connect you to the switchboard of the Congress. Use the sample script below to voice your support for refugee resettlement:

Sample script: "I'm a constituent from [City] and I support the resettlement of Syrian refugees. I urge the Senator / Representative / Governor to represent me and other constituents who seek to welcome Syrian refugees. As an Episcopalian, my faith calls me to welcome the stranger. I am proud to live and work alongside refugees in my community every day."

We also need to call Governor Baker: 617-725-4005 / 413-784-1200 / 202-624-7713 with the same message.

Here are some helpful points on the security process, but the most important point is your story and why your community wants to welcome Syrian refugees: The U.S. government handpicks the refugees who resettle here, and the U.S. resettlement process has the most rigorous screening process in the world. Refugees are the most thoroughly vetted people to come to the United States, undergoing interagency screenings by the Department of Homeland Security, FBI, Department of Defense and multiple intelligence agencies, including biometric checks, forensic document testing, medical tests and in-person interviews. This is not an either/or situation. The United States can continue to welcome refugees while also continuing to ensure national security. We must do both.

Join the United Thank Offering Advent Challenge: Journey from Gratitude to Hope

The Board of the United Thank Offering has presented a challenge to The Episcopal Church to benefit a special grant of \$30,000 for Episcopal Migration Ministries. United Thank Offering will match the first \$30,000 given by December 31, 2015 that is marked "EMM-UTO." The challenge, which kicks off immediately, will continue throughout December 2015.

To Donate:

Checks or online donations should have UTO-EMM in the memo line/comments section.

Donations are also accepted online at <https://episcopalchurch.thankyou4caring.org/> just select UTO from the drop down menu and then put EMM in the comments.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM

October 30, 2015

Reflection by the Archbishop in Jerusalem, The Most Reverend Suheil Dawani on the situation for refugees in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East

One way the Church has managed to respond is through “The Network”, which, under the supervision of The Rev’d Canon ‘Brother Andrew’ De Carpentier of the Anglican “Holy Land Institute for Deaf and Deafblind Children” in Salt, has brought together different local organizations providing essential medical and paramedical care to thousands of refugees with disabilities in need. The “Network” is a partnership between: The Dhia Society (a Jordanian charity for visually impaired children), The Raja society (a school for the education and training of those with cognitive issues), The Avicenna (Ibn Sina) society (a Jordanian organization for helping those with mobility issues); and the Palestine Hospital (A Church-affiliated specialist hospital for Trauma and Neurology).

Another way the Church responded is through the work of St Paul’s church in Ashrafiyeh - Amman. The Reverend George Kopti describes how refugees have become part of the church family, with activities provided for the children and for women, as well as a new mid-week Bible study for the Christians who have fled. As winter approaches, the congregation are gathering gas stoves to hand, and distributing food coupons.

The Rev'd Canon Samir Esaid, vicar of The Virgin Mary Episcopal Church in Irbid explained how his church is reaching out to refugees in the community with a special focus on providing education and support to parents of children who are blind or visually impaired. It helps parents cope with their children who attend the Arab Episcopal School for visually impaired and sighted children. Not only did they take in refugees as students, but in one instant also had a refugee working as a volunteer teacher in the school. He explained that for many the border between Syria and Jordan was quite arbitrary as related families were living on both sides, with many Jordanians now looking after their Syrian relatives.

Funds to support the work of the Diocese of Jerusalem may be sent directly to Bishop Dawani at The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, PO Box 191122, 20 Nablus Road, Jerusalem 91191, or can be earmarked and made through www.AFEDJ.org or mailed to AFEDJ, 25 Old King's Hwy No., Suite 13, Darien, CT 06820.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

From <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/press-and-resources/press-releases/2015-press-releases/syria-crisis-response-updates>

Syria Crisis Response Updates

September 15, 2015

Episcopal Relief & Development is engaging the Syrian crisis through support to agencies in Syria, to the Diocese of Jerusalem's Holy Land Institute for the Deaf and in support of large numbers of people traveling out of crisis areas into Europe. The agency is in contact with Anglican Communion partners through The Episcopal Church's Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe and The Church of England's Diocese in Europe, as well as interfaith partners such as Islamic Relief.

"Our relationships with Anglican Communion and ecumenical organizations enable us to contribute efficiently and effectively to the relief of those fleeing the Syrian conflict," said Abigail Nelson, Episcopal Relief & Development's Senior Vice President for Programs. "These agencies are leveraging our support to meet critical needs for basic supplies, as well as language and cultural mediation to lower the anxiety of displacement and help people access available services."

In Italy, St. Paul's Within the Walls Episcopal Church in Rome operates the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center as its primary outreach ministry, providing a safe space for 200-250 individuals per day to access legal, vocational, medical and language services. Episcopal Relief & Development support will enable the Center to expand its ministry to serve the increased number of displaced people seeking safety and assistance.

The Church of England's Diocese in Europe plans to distribute emergency funds to churches in Greece, Italy, France and Hungary that are responding to the needs of displaced people for food, clothing, shelter materials and medical supplies. The Diocese is reportedly working with Orthodox churches in these areas as well, which expands the capacity to ensure needs are met.

Islamic Relief is active on the island of Lesbos, Greece, where Syrians fleeing the conflict arrive at the northern town of Molyvos, closest to Turkey, and travel to the southeastern town of Mitilini in order to take the ferry to the mainland. Arabic-speaking Islamic Relief staff, working with other organizations and local volunteers, are offering food and guidance to those arriving, including information about transportation options such as buses to save the 40-mile journey on foot.

Please continue to pray for all those fleeing violence and unrest. **Contributions to the Syria Crisis Response Fund will help support relief efforts.**

Summary of Services through Refugee Community Agencies

From <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/ori/community-organizations.html>

Community education and orientation: orientation for refugee populations regarding how to access and navigate mainstream service system and local resources. Providers utilize ethnic TV, radio, newspapers, and local events to outreach to refugee populations and facilitate adjustment to their new communities.

Cultural orientation to mainstream services: provide cultural orientation to mainstream service providers regarding various refugee populations and their specific characteristics and needs.

Outreach/screening/referral services: providers also reach out to asylees, secondary migrants, and refugees who may need to re-enter the refugee services system.

Direct services to refugees: provide family support and assistance to promote adjustment and economic self-sufficiency, such as with housing, fuel assistance, education, day care for children, and referral to mental health, medical and legal services.

Translation and Interpreting, TIP

Provides translation and interpreting services for refugees in targeted communities. The objective of the project is to provide community-based translation and interpretation to assist refugees to access mainstream services in Greater Boston, Lynn and Springfield.

Youth Adjustment Services, YAS

Youth Adjustment Services provide refugee youth with a variety of opportunities that facilitate community and school adjustment. The objective of the project is to assist refugee youth to succeed through after-school and weekend programs, parent liaison services, tutoring services that address social adjustment, academic, recreational, cultural enrichment and/or intergenerational needs of refugee youth.