



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

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JCRC Supports Increased Syrian Refugee Admissions and Careful Vetting

San Francisco, CA – The Jewish Community Relations Council yesterday communicated with Bay Area members of Congress its support for an increase in the numbers of Syrian refugees admitted for humanitarian reasons, following careful vetting at a time of increased concern about global security. The JCRC letter read as follows:

“Since our nation has the most robust resettlement capability in the world, we must set an example for the international community. The Jewish Community Relations Council urges Congress and the Administration to increase annual admission of Syrian refugees while ensuring the rigorous security screening that is integral to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and particularly important at a time of increased global insecurity.

“After the recent horrific terrorist attacks in Paris, a number of civic leaders have declared that we should refuse to shelter any Syrian refugees. Unfortunately, the American Jewish community knows all too well what happens when the world fails to support refugees. Turning our back on refugees would not only put countless lives in danger, but it would also contravene our nation’s core values, because it is the U.S. refugee program that allows us to be a safe haven and beacon of freedom. In addition, rejecting these refugees would only empower the extremism that our nation strives to overcome throughout the world. Instead, by opening our gates and prioritizing national security we affirm our values.

“Jewish tradition instructs us to “love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:17-19). Lessons from our history and tradition continue to compel the American Jewish community to support generous and rational immigration and refugee policies. Today, our nation must not only expand its aid to the Syrian people, but also ‘welcome the stranger’ who is seeking to escape some of the greatest horrors on the planet.”

Along with the core value of our country serving as a beacon of freedom comes the continued responsibility shared by the government and private sector to ensure that efforts to fully integrate all immigrants into American society remain an important priority at the local, state and federal level.

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