

## QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE: January-February 2025 Refugee Advocacy Toolkit

On January 20, President Trump signed a [refugee ban executive order](#), suspending the U.S. resettlement program indefinitely and grinding refugee admissions to a halt. Within 24-48 hours, the State Department began implementing the refugee ban, canceling flights for refugees who were already booked for travel. By January 24, the ten national resettlement agencies received a stop work order for all PRM contracts as a result of the 90-day [foreign aid pause executive order](#). The stop work order informs the resettlement agencies to cease administering Reception and Placement (R&P) for refugees and Afghan SIVs already here in the United States. By January 25, the State Department began [canceling](#) Afghan SIVs' bookings, set to be resettled by a resettlement agency in the coming weeks. RCUSA statements in response are available [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

The **January 2025 Refugee Advocacy Toolkit** equips local communities with the tools to engage local, state, and national elected leaders to welcome refugees and newcomers. This toolkit serves as a how-to guide for building a diverse team of constituents to meet with your congressional, state, and local officials, with messaging & talking points, factsheets & handouts, recommended policy asks, and template advocacy resources. [Click here](#) to access the full toolkit: [bit.ly/RCUSAToolkitJanuary2025](https://bit.ly/RCUSAToolkitJanuary2025).

### Top Four Ways to Take Action

1. **Meet with Your National, State, and Local Elected Leaders:** Educate your elected leaders about the vital role that refugees and all newcomers play in your communities. Meetings with policymakers should be viewed as part of a continuing process of gathering information, building relationships, and developing advocacy strategies. You can check out when your members of Congress are in their states and local offices from [this 2025 schedule](#) (recess periods are unshaded). [This folder](#) contains handouts you can bring with you to legislative visits. More resources on engaging federal policymakers are [available here](#).
2. **Engage State & Local Elected Leaders to Advance Welcome Policies:** State and local leaders often are at the forefront of advancing critical policies and programs that ensure our communities have the resources they need to help refugees and other newcomers integrate and thrive. An action alert to contact your governors, state legislators, and local officials is [available here](#). More resources on engaging state/local policymakers are [available here](#).
3. **Amplify Your Message:** Share [this action alert](#) with your networks so that they can contact their congressional leaders about the importance of refugee and humanitarian protection, and use [this social media toolkit](#) to amplify your message. Also check out [this action alert](#) urging all lawmakers to welcome refugees, immigrants, and newcomers (accompanying social media toolkit, [here](#)). Please share your message with media outlets; for RCUSA's *Key Messaging Pillars*, [click here](#). Community sign on letters are also a great way to demonstrate your commitment to refugees and newcomers, such as for [businesses and employers](#), [faith leaders or faith-based organizations](#), or [state and local officials](#). More resources on amplifying your message can be found in the [RCUSA toolkit](#).
4. **Utilize Template Resources:** National, state, and local officials often request templates or examples of resolutions, letters, or other resources that serve as a basis for them to express their support for refugees and newcomers. Check out these template resources that you can use and adapt for your national, state, and local leaders, including a [template welcome resolution](#) (see also: [Afghan-specific template](#)), as well as a [sample letter](#) from local organizations to Congress, [sample letter](#) from local organizations to state and local officials, and [sample letter](#) from your state/local officials to the White House & State Department. All of these templates, as well as examples and other resources are available in the [RCUSA toolkit](#).

As we face this momentous period in history, we must remember that we are not powerless; there are many ways to take action. Join us in declaring support for refugees and newcomers - and share these resources with your networks!

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