

Governor Doug Ducey  
Office of the Governor  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

December 6, 2019

Dear Governor Ducey,

As evangelical Christians from throughout the state of Arizona, we're writing to urge you to allow refugees to continue to be resettled to Arizona through the U.S. refugee admissions program. Under an executive order signed by President Trump in September, resettlement will happen only in states and localities whose leaders provide written consent to allow refugees to be resettled in the state/locality. Arizona evangelical churches and ministries have been active in serving newly arrived refugees for decades, and we pray you will not restrict the ability for us to love our global neighbors in this way.

Over the past decade, roughly 25,500 individuals from various countries have been resettled in Arizona. Many refugees resettled by the U.S. refugee resettlement program are Christians or other religious minorities who were persecuted for their faith in countries without our country's constitutional commitment to religious freedom. Others were persecuted for their political opposition to authoritarian regimes or because of their ethnicity. Regardless of their background, refugees are human beings made in God's image, with inherent dignity and potential, and we have been blessed by their arrival in Arizona; we desire to continue to be able to extend love to these new neighbors as an exercise of our Christian faith.

Refugees resettled by the U.S. State Department are lawfully present in the U.S. from the moment of their arrival. Each one undergoes a thorough vetting process abroad before being approved for resettlement; in fact, the vetting process for refugees is the most thorough screening our federal government has for any category of immigrant or visitor coming to the U.S.. The vetting process is remarkably successful: since the Refugee Act of 1980, no refugee resettled to the U.S. has taken a single American life in an act of terrorism. We can be secure and compassionate in welcoming refugees.

Refugees also play an important role in Arizona's economy. With a low statewide unemployment rate of just 5.0%, labor shortages pose a significant threat to ongoing economic growth. Refugees are employment authorized from the day they arrive and are eager to embrace the dignity of work, a right that was generally denied them in the countries from which they came. Various studies have found that, in the long-term, refugees contribute significantly more in tax revenues than they cost taxpayers in the form of initial resettlement assistance or public benefits. Refugees also make significant contributions to local economies in that they have a particularly high rate of entrepreneurship, higher than other immigrants and the native-born population.

Furthermore, if refugees are no longer allowed to be resettled to Arizona, it would disrupt the reunification of many families who have been waiting years to be reunited. Many refugees are resettled to Arizona because they already have family members in the state. If Arizona restricts their resettlement, many will likely exercise their lawful right to simply move to Arizona immediately after being resettled in another state so as to join their family – but in doing so, they

will move away from vital employment assistance, language acquisition and cultural adjustment resources offered by their resettlement organization. Refugees can best integrate into the U.S. and quickly become financially self-sufficient when supported both by their family and by a local resettlement office.

As our state's governor, we urge you to keep the option open for local communities within Arizona to continue to receive newly arrived refugees. As always, we are committed to praying for you as you lead our state.

Sincerely,

Rev. Christopher Amaro, Redemption Church- West Mesa  
Rev. Josh Blinson, Orangewood Church, Glendale  
Rev. Matthew Braselton, Redemption Church, Queen Creek  
Rev. Scott Brown, New Valley Church, Tempe  
Rev. Caleb Campbell, Desert Springs Bible Church, Phoenix  
Rev. Juan Chavez, Redemption, Tolleson  
Rev. John Crawford, Redemption Church Tempe  
Rev. Edward Dean, Phoenix  
Rev. Gray Ewing, New Valley Church, Phoenix  
Rev. Heidi Glynn, Children's Hope Covenant Church, Chandler  
Rev. Joseph Gosha, The Foursquare Church, Sun City  
Rev. Josh Harp, King of Kings Church, Phoenix  
Rev. Tyler James, Redemption Church, Scottsdale  
Rev. Tyler Johnson, Redemption Church, Chandler  
Rev. Dean Kuest, Glendale Campus Central Christian Church of Arizona, Glendale  
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Larson, All Nations Christian Church International, Mesa  
Rev. Clint Leavitt, The Spring Midtown, Phoenix  
Rev. Nathan Lutz, Faith Church of the Valley, Chandler  
Rev. Jim Mullins, Redemption Church, Tempe  
Rev. Andy Myers, Campus Compass Christian Church, Casa Grande  
Rev. Jeremy Olimb, Redemption Church, Gilbert  
Rev. Josh Prather, Redemption Church, Phoenix  
Rev. Tom Parker, The Spring Church, Tempe  
Rev. Jason Raber, Redemption Church, Chandler  
Rev. Dr. Matthew Rundio, Scottsdale First Church of the Nazarene  
Rev. Peter Smith, Living Faith Anglican Church, Tempe  
Rev. Chris Townley, Kaleo, Phoenix  
Tammy Abernethy, CEO, Hope Women's Center, Phoenix  
Safaa Alsharbati Operations Manager, AIRS, Phoenix  
John Cosby, Director, Immigrant Hope – Mesa  
Kit Danley, President, Neighborhood Ministries, Phoenix  
Adam Estle, Board Member, Orangewood Church of the Nazarene, Peoria  
Tansy Kadoe, Director of Communications, Arizona Karen Baptist Church, Peoria  
Mary Kaech, Refugee Ministry Coordinator, Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
Will Krueger, Director of Staff Development, GoTEN, Peoria  
Leisa McDonald, Associate Director of Global Outreach, Central Christian Church, Chandler  
Dennae Pierre, Executive Director, Surge Network, Phoenix

Matthew Rucker, Associate Rector, Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
Wah Wah Diamond, Arizona Karen Baptist Church, Phoenix  
Christina Fankhauser, Catholic Charities, Phoenix  
William Hamilton, International Foundation, Phoenix  
Douglas Kelley Ph. D., Arizona State University, Phoenix  
Anna Kostrivas, Scottsdale Bible  
Rho La, Arizona Karen Baptist Church, Phoenix  
Joel Liechty, The Wesleyan Church, Flagstaff  
Belinda McBride, Neighborhood Ministries, Phoenix  
Michele Pasley, Orangewood Nazarene Church, Phoenix  
Bre Paw, Arizona Karen Baptist Church, Glendale  
Heather Ryan, Neighborhood Ministries, Phoenix  
Jay Silverman, New Valley Church, Gilbert  
Pat Sheridan, Monte Vista Baptist Church, Phoenix  
Catherine Smith, Chandler Church of the Nazarene  
William Strickland, President, Mission ONE, Phoenix  
Phil Thomas, Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
Sarah Thomas, Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
Christopher Williams, Neighborhood Ministries, Phoenix  
Seth Whitlock, New City Church, Phoenix  
Marilynn Spiegel, Phoenix Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Faith Smeets, Roosevelt Community Church, Phoenix  
Laura Henrich, Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
Jennifer Muriithi, Director, Tapestry, Mesa  
Lauren Demianiuk, Christ Church Anglican, Scottsdale  
Christina Atwood, Executive Director, Gathering Humanity, Tempe  
Linda Shirey, Editor, First Reformed Presbyterian of Phoenix  
Tyson Shea, New Valley Church, Gilbert  
Renata Whitlock, New City Church, Phoenix  
Josh McCoy, Executive Director, Mercy Ministries, Phoenix  
Rowena McAllister, Valley Presbyterian, Scottsdale  
Megan Lindsay, Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
Joan Menke, Christ's Greenfield Lutheran Church, Mesa  
Nicole Jarrett, Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
Becky Brown, New Valley Church Tempe  
Christy Voelkel, Southside Presbyterian, Tucson  
Cheryl Timmerman, Christ Church Anglican Phoenix  
Sheli Sloterbeek, Hope Covenant Church Chandler  
Catherine Smith, Chandler Church of the Nazarene  
Shey Madrid, The Spring Church, Tempe  
Doug Glynn, Hope Covenant Church, Chandler  
Amanda Toews, Administrator, New Valley Church, Chandler  
Sean Mortenson, Church of the Desert, Scottsdale  
Timothy Hoiland, Christ Church Anglican, Tempe  
Sonja Nowack, Living Faith Anglican, Mesa  
Kelly Nutter, Central Christian Church, Chandler  
Sarah Vowell, Living Faith Anglican Church Phoenix  
Katie Whitehorn, The Spring Church, Tempe  
Steve Henry, Redemption Gateway, Mesa

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 Sharon Mortenson, Church of the Desert, Scottsdale  
 John McHenney, Living Faith Anglican Church, Scottsdale  
 Jordan Hayden, Missio Dei Communities, Tempe  
 Rachelle Dondrea, Tempe  
 Mark Klink, Open Door Fellowship, Phoenix  
 Mary Sherer, Living Faith Anglican Church, Gilbert  
 Sarah Burley, Central Christian Church, Mesa  
 Jai Choi, Strategic Engagement Coordinator, MIO Frontiers, Tempe  
 Mary Sherer, Living Faith Anglican Church, Gilbert  
 Joshua Larson, Redemption Alhambra, Tempe  
 Emily Zahn, Central Christian Church, Gilbert  
 Paula Schwartzmann, Redemption, Tempe  
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 Meagan South, New Valley Church, Phoenix  
 Bill Leick, Church-Based Teams Director, Frontiers, Chandler  
 Jacob Embleton, Assoc. Director of Global Outreach, Central Christian Church, Tempe  
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 Beth Weicht, Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
 Cindy Frost, Board Member, Living Faith Anglican Church, Tempe  
 Elizabeth Cassidy, Christ's Church of Flagstaff  
 Marti Leick, Antioch, Chandler  
 Ben Roat, Church of the Desert, Phoenix  
 Euphemia Weekes, Living Faith Anglican, Maricopa  
 Dr. Raegan Vanderput, Roosevelt Community Church, Phoenix  
 Kay Navarrette, Zoe Community Church, Peoria  
 Diane Hyink, Central Christian Church, Chandler  
 Victoria Dean, Church of the Nazarene, Phoenix  
 Taylor Kilcup, New City, Phoenix  
 Mikaela Bell, Vineyard Christian Community, Tucson  
 Karin Crawford, Living Faith Anglican Church, Mesa  
 Heidi Aldrich, Central Christian, Tempe  
 Tina Larsen, Living Faith Anglican Church, Mesa  
 Heidi Smith, Central Christian Church, Mesa  
 Charlotte Campbell, Roosevelt Community Church, Phoenix  
 Emily Giannone, Roosevelt Community Church, Phoenix  
 Vermon Pierre, Roosevelt Community Church, Phoenix  
 Keely Embleton, Tempe  
 Katelyn D'Amour, Christ Church Anglican, Tempe  
 Shawn Carson, Senior Warden, Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
 Cameron Blaauw, Christ Church, Phoenix  
 George Miley, Priest, Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
 Benjamin Spear, Redemption Church, Tempe  
 Patricia Edmonds, AZ Community Church, Phoenix  
 Grace Vaughan, Hope Community Church, Flagstaff  
 Roxanne Small, Central Christian Church, Gilbert

Eli Chamberlain, Flagstaff  
 Katherine Lezama, Phoenix  
 Chloe Rutledge, The Spring, Tempe  
 Kira Krieger, Redemption Church, Gilbert  
 Abby Schiavello, Phoenix  
 Jenny Mullins, Redemption Church Tempe  
 Joshua Kienzle, Redemption, Peoria  
 Callie Unruh, The Grove, Chandler  
 Joan Menke, Christ's Greenfield Lutheran Church, Mesa  
 Claire Meckler, SIM, Glendale  
 Logan Tokos, Redemption, Tempe  
 Tiffany Scher, Faith Church of the Valley, Chandler  
 Sara Shaffer, Phoenix  
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 Sheri Thal, Faith Bible Church, Glendale  
 Tim Thal, Elder, Faith Bible Church, Glendale  
 Tamara Hebert, Faith Church of the Valley, Gilbert  
 Benjamin Bisgrove, Living Faith Anglican Church, Phoenix  
 Sandra Feralio, Tempe  
 Jeremy Landes, Faith Church of the Valley, Chandler  
 Derek DeVelder, Grace Community Church, Chandler  
 Suzette Schlapkohl, Open Door Fellowship, Phoenix  
 Suzette Schlapkohl an active member Open Door Fellowship Phoenix  
 Jean Duerbeck, Living Faith Anglican Church Tempe  
 Grace Resha, GoTEN, Phoenix  
 Patricia Udell, Christ's Church of the Valley  
 Jacqueline Norris, Faith Church of the Valley, Mesa  
 David Harowitz, Living Faith Anglican Church, Tempe  
 Barbara Fabey, Living Faith Anglican Church, Tempe  
 Linda Ahlborn, Living Faith Anglican Church, Tempe  
 Jonathan Sanborn State Director CarePortal Phoenix  
 Njenga Maina, Redemption Alhambra, Phoenix  
 Gabriel Mueller, Scottsdale  
 Lorraine Scorza, New Valley, Gilbert  
 Angela Collett, Glendale  
 Nick Rotich, Chandler SDA Church  
 Nancy Dang, Glendale  
 James Holdren, Redemption Church Alhambra, Phoenix  
 Mia Aranda, GCU, Phoenix  
 Brittani Curtis, New City, Phoenix  
 Berta Myers, Scottsdale Bible Church  
 Diana Martinez, Redemption Alhambra, Phoenix  
 Alisha Purdom, Hillsong, Phoenix  
 Julie Sing, Open Door Fellowship, Phoenix  
 Alexandria Muncy, Redemption Alhambra, Phoenix  
 Micah Dailey, Redemption Church Alhambra, Phoenix  
 Mary Martany, Mar Abraham Chaldean Catholic Church, Phoenix  
 Rebecca Nystrom, Open Door Fellowship, Peoria  
 Danielle Heyer, Redemption Alhambra, Phoenix

Annaliese Pickett, Desert's End, Mesa  
Jon Deneter, Redemption Church, Glendale  
Nancy Blankinship Blankinship, CCV, Phoenix  
Sherrie Crandal, Living faith Anglican, Sun Lakes  
Stephanie Shumate, Operations Manager, Redemption Church, Phoenix  
Frank Switzer, Redemption Church Arizona, Phoenix  
Seth Troutt, Redemption Church, Gilbert  
Allison Disarufino, Redemption Arcadia, Phoenix  
Jamie Mitchell, First Southern Baptist Church of Scottsdale  
Roni Sue Lee, Grace Community Church of Tempe  
Tina Busby, Redemption, Phoenix  
Michelle Kozak, Redemption, Phoenix  
Chris Obuch, North Phoenix Baptist Church  
Anna Lundberg, New City Church, Phoenix  
Kayla Ladd, Redemption Alhambra, Phoenix  
Malissa Geer, Senior Director, Kineo, Phoenix  
Jacob Slebodnik, Redemption Church, Tempe  
Stephen Collins, Redemption Church, Tucson  
Emilio De La Cruz, Assembly of God, Avondale  
Jeff Wasley, Highlands, Scottsdale  
Joie Mckiernan, Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
Cheryl Oliver, Glendale  
Morgan Rendel, Open Door Fellowship Church, Phoenix  
Jessica Ordaz, Redemption, Flagstaff  
Joanie Simon, Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
Jorge Salcedo, Living Faith Anglican Church Tempe AZ  
Sarah Sanders, Co-Director, Campus Christian Center, Tempe  
Eric Kocher, Scottsdale Bible Church  
Ryan Arneson Family & Campus Pastot Redemption Tempe  
Kylie Zaslove, The Spring Midtown, Phoenix  
Elizabeth Adams, CCV Phoenix  
Amanda Crozier, Spring Midtown Church Phoenix  
Troy Zaslove, The Spring - Midtown Phoenix  
Mark Adams, Frontera de Cristo Douglas  
Karl Mueller Senior Consultant Phoenix  
Mary Kaeche Executive Director, Phoenix Refugee Connections  
Lisa Schilling, Glendale  
Robert Lee, Via Church Mesa  
John Wood, Founding Director, Glory Honor Africa, Scottsdale  
Richard Jutzi, Partner, Cohen, Rife & Jutzi, PC, Phoenix  
Devon Whalen, New Valley Church, Tempe  
Kaitlin Monroe, Christ Church Anglican, Scottsdale  
J Gary Nelson, Licensed Professional Counselor, Payson  
Susan Leon, Neighborhood Ministries, Phoenix  
Mandy Porter-Griffith, Mesa  
Brian Frey, Union Church, Glendale  
Emily Gammill, Union Church, Glendale  
Lindsay Buchert, New Valley Church, Gilbert  
Jacquelyn Grayson Trigg, Central Christian Church—Glendale, Phoenix



Renata Whitlock, New City Church, Phoenix  
Laura Clark, Union Church, Phoenix  
Phillip Liebold, MDiv, Tucson  
Justin Pressnall, Prescott Valley  
Mary Boesch, Church of the Nazarene, Chandler  
Mark Prellberg, Scottsdale First Church of the Nazarene  
Micah Wislocki, Redemption, Tempe  
Elizabeth Polen, Roosevelt Community Church, Phoenix  
Corey Brooks, Scottsdale Church of the Nazarene  
Brittany McFadden, Redemption Church Alhambra, Phoenix  
Kim Baldwin, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Phoenix  
Forster Okoli, Living Faith Anglican Church, Laveen  
Ginger Ciminello, New Valley Church, Chandler  
Seth Whitlock, New City Church Phoenix  
Carolyn Apel, Abiding In Christ, Tucson  
Bonnie Maginn, First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Phoenix  
Julie Price-Thiede, Scottsdale First Church of the Nazarene  
Krystle Gray, Redemption, Gilbert  
Gary De Velder, Director, Abounding Service, Phoenix  
Melissa Anderson, Chandler First Church of the Nazarene  
Catherine Smith, Chandler Church of the Nazarene  
Jennifer Bell, Phoenix  
Landon Benson, Phoenix  
Douglas Boys, Gilbert  
Kristie Braselton, Queen Creek  
Debra Callaghan, Maricopa  
Lucia Cerchie, Tempe  
Barbara Chapman, Litchfield Park  
Tiffany Cobb, Phoenix  
Lynne Davis, Phoenix  
Laura Gaylord, Chandler  
Kay Griepentrog, Scottsdale  
Bill Hamilton, Phoenix  
Andrew Hogg, Phoenix  
Katie Hoiland, Tempe  
Ann Kelley, Phoenix  
Dr. Beth Larson, Tempe  
Kellen Lynch, Mesa  
Berta Myers, Phoenix  
Veronica Perrone, Glendale  
Maggie Rafidi, Peoria  
Scott Rehorn, Paradise Valley  
Chloe Rutledge, Phoenix  
Kira Russo, Tempe  
Jennifer Sequeira, Gilbert  
Kirsten Snyder, Phoenix  
Logan Tokos, Tempe  
Kristin Tovar, Tucson  
Dwight Vogt, Phoenix

EVANGELICAL  
IMMIGRATION **table.**

world relief 

Allison Weber, Flagstaff  
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Kirsten Wright, Phoenix