

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

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
 Dennaë 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
Christy Dvoret, Administrative Assistant, MIOF, Phoenix
Elizabeth Johnson, Phoenix
Jeffrey Sloan, Compassion Church, Gilbert
Sharon Mortenson, Church of the Desert, Scottsdale

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
 Jeffrey Bisgrove, Living Faith Anglican, Phoenix
 Jonathan Koepnick, Tempe
 Meagan South, New Valley Church, Phoenix
 Jacob Embleton, Assoc. Director of Global Outreach, Central Christian Church, Tempe
 Amanda Harless, Gilbert
 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

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
 Glynka Fritz Miller, Redemption Tempe Chandler
 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 Nuncy, 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

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 Kaech 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

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
Allison Weber, Flagstaff
Martha Wenzel, Phoenix
Kirsten Wright, Phoenix
Bill Leick, Chandler