



**Lutheran Immigration  
and Refugee Service**



Freedom Network USA

September 15, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Duke  
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Duke:

We write to request a meeting regarding the Department of Homeland Security's leadership on enhancing refugee processing and the Presidential Determination (PD) for refugee admissions for Fiscal Year 2018. Our organizations aid and process refugees overseas, resettle refugees, assist asylum seekers and asylees, provide trafficking victim services, provide integration and citizenship services in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, and the Department of Health and Human Services. We are eager to work with your Department and the Administration to improve these services that serve DHS priorities.

It is our hope that in our meeting we could cover the following objectives and answer any questions you might have:

1. Resettlement agencies would like to share what we have learned from business leaders, congregations and faith communities, and local affiliates about the impact of a refugee admissions ceiling that is lower than historic norms on state and local communities.
2. We would also like to discuss certain vulnerable refugees who may be impacted by a refugee ceiling lower than historic norms.
3. The complementarity of assisting refugees and asylum seekers.
4. The national security imperative of the refugee admissions program.

5. We would like to share intelligence from trafficking and national security experts on the impact that refugee resettlement has in preventing trafficking and enhancing national security objectives.

We request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience and we would be willing to brief you on any other subject matters as it relates to refugee resettlement and its impact on other DHS priorities.

Sincerely,



Hans Van de Weerd  
Vice President, U.S. Programs  
International Rescue Committee



Linda Hartke  
President and CEO  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service



William Canny  
Executive Director,  
Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)



Eleanor Acer  
Senior Director, Refugee Protection  
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Jean Bruggeman  
Executive Director  
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