

World Relief

1220B East Joppa Rd.
Towson, MD 21286

September 23, 2026

Dear President Trump,

American commitment to international religious freedom has been a hallmark of our foreign policy for decades. One of the primary ways that the U.S. has stood for religious liberty has been by offering refuge to those persecuted for their faith in other countries, particularly through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

During your first term, you rightly [highlighted](#) this commitment to protecting religious freedom both at home and abroad, saying in a 2019 address that “America stands with believers in every country who ask only for the freedom to live according to the faith that is within their own hearts” and specifically telling victims of religious persecution, “you have a place in the United States of America.”

You put that principle into practice by prioritizing refugees who “have been persecuted or have a well-founded fear of persecution on account of their religion” as the top priority for refugee resettlement in your Fiscal Year 2020 Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions. In Fiscal Year 2026, however, only one population, from a country not among the [worst violators](#) of religious freedom, was prioritized for refugee resettlement.

As a result, this year is on track to be the first year in at least a quarter century in which no refugees persecuted on account of their religious beliefs will be admitted to the United States. By comparison, in Fiscal Year 2024, more than 29,000 Christian refugees were resettled from the 50 countries where Open Doors US finds that Christians face the most severe persecution.

Christians and churches here in the United States have worked with the federal government and resettlement organizations to welcome refugees and help them integrate into their new homes for decades. In turn, refugees have contributed economically and socially to neighborhoods across the country, becoming tightly woven into the fabric of our communities and churches.

A recent poll from Lifeway Research finds that 70 percent of evangelical Christians believe that the U.S. has a moral responsibility to receive refugees. Among evangelical pastors, 87 percent believe that Christians fleeing religious persecution should be a priority for refugee resettlement.

We urge you to once again prioritize Christians and other religious minorities fleeing religious persecution.

As you set the annual refugee ceiling for Fiscal Year 2027, we ask you to honor your commitment to international religious liberty by making refugees persecuted on account of their religion a top priority for resettlement, including religious minorities from Iran and the former Soviet Union who qualify under the Lautenberg Amendment.

We are thankful for the religious liberty with which we are blessed in the United States, and we pray for the day when those of every nation are able to worship and practice their faith free from persecution, restrictions or coercion. Until that day, we want the United States to remain open to those forced to flee persecution on account of their faith – and we ask you to be their champion.

Sincerely,

Signed by 3,466 evangelical Christians