

**Research Question:** Do refugees who resettle in the Washington DC Metro Area have access to basic necessities in order to live a comfortable lifestyle? If not, what organizations and policies are put in place to aid in the resettlement of refugees in Washington DC, and how can they be improved upon?

**Incentive:**

- War, persecution, and the pressing issues of climate change are just some of the factors forcing people to leave their home countries in search of a better life. Without basic necessities put in place for refugees to obtain a comfortable lifestyle when they arrive in the US, they will have been forced to flee their home countries for nothing. It is crucial that our nation's capital lead by example, ensuring policies and programs put forth to ensure economic, social, and holistic wellbeing for refugees.

**Executive Summary:**

- Refugees face very hostile conditions pre-migration to a new country after they have been forced from their homes, making them highly susceptible to both mental and physical problems. Such problems of refugees are comparatively much greater than in non-refugees, and this includes malnutrition, infectious diseases, economic hardship, unemployment, and social isolation to name a few (Kiss).
- Multi-family group treatments, updates to legislation, and a closer look at the magnitude of the refugee crisis (A miracle) are suggestions to help combat the presence of PTSD commonly found in refugees and ensure a long term reliable resettlement process of refugees (Lacroix).
- Having faced difficult post-migration conditions when attempting to resettle in a new country, proposed legislative changes that would aid in their resettlement of refugees in the US are required. For instance, the humanitarian agency deemed Domestic

Resettlement Program complicates the domestic resettlement of refugees in the US and is in crucial need of an update (Brown), also expanding refugee's resources as they are significantly lacking (A miracle).

- Some of the main locations around the world where refugees are located include Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, and Iraq, and although in 2016, the US accepted 10,000 Syrian refugees, it fell 22,000 refugees short of the 85,000 refugee price ceiling in terms of total refugees accepted into the country, the same year.

### **Key Stakeholders:**

- Lutheran Social Services National Capital Area (LSSNCA) assists in the resettlement of thousands of federally approved refugees in the Washington DC Metro Area through a partnership with local organizations, companies, and individual volunteers. With efforts to become self-sufficient members of society in the US and regain independence in the DC Area, LSSNCA provides refugees with intensive case management and cultural orientation from professionals.
- Tazreena Sajjad, the Senior Professorial Lecturer in the School of International Service at American University, specializes in refugees and forced displacement, and recently wrote an abundance of publications such as 'Refugees Welcome? The Politics of Repatriation and Return in a Global Era of Security: The Rohingyas in Bangladesh' in Displacement: Global Conversations on Refuge', "Refugees

### **Appraisal of Past Solutions/Opposing Views:**

- One source claimed the dangers of accepting refugees, looking at Bekaa Valley in Northern Lebanon and the effects of 40,000 Syrian refugees. The source claimed that the influx of refugees leads to, "a severe strain on already inadequate infrastructure, especially electricity, garbage collection, housing and water treatment," (A miracle).

- I suggest we use this situation as an encouragement for the United States to be prepared through implementing secure legislation and funding for humanitarian organizations to prevent a strain on infrastructure and other factors when refugees resettle.

**Budget:**

- Converse with Humanitarian Organizations regarding their economic needs, and discuss possibilities for legislation implementation that will benefit long term, successful refugee resettlement
- Observe possible Venmo fundraisers with large Instagram accounts supporting refugees

**Timeline:**

- January: locate organizations aiding in refugee resettlement (chosen organisation: [Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society](#)) to discuss the potential for donations, discuss with scholars on the topic to locate other helpful solutions
- February: choose a partnership organization (chosen organisation: Nandos in Tenleytown, Washington DC), promote for the fundraiser to reach a wide audience, schedule fundraiser date and time (fundraiser date: March 25, 4:00-8:00 pm)
- March: move forward with fundraiser and complete donation and reflections

**Conclusion:** It is clear that refugee resettlement is something that needs to be addressed in the US to ensure a smooth and long-lasting transition which can be completed through humanitarian organization funding, legitimize and update legislation and policies, and spread awareness of the situation. This is crucial to promoting a peaceful world.

## References

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