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ADVOCATES LOBBY TO PROTECT U.S. REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM FUNDS IN CONTINUING RESOLUTION AND FISCAL YEAR 2017 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

*DCRally4Refugees Organizers and Partners Follow-Up Rally with
Delivery of 10,000 Signed Postcards to Capitol Hill on Thursday, September 15th*

September 14, 2016 (Washington, DC)—Following the recent [DCRally4Refugees](#), organizers and partners will lobby Congress to keep funding for the [U.S. Refugee Admissions Program](#), which provides resources to serve refugees resettled in the U.S., and deliver 10,000 signed [postcards](#) to Congressional leadership and offices on Capitol Hill, Thursday, September 15.

A partnership of 42 organizations, the postcard is timed with upcoming appropriations bills, the United Nations [Summit for Refugees and Migrants](#) on September 19 and the White House [Leaders' Summit on Refugees](#) on September 20. Advocates want increased funding for refugees and displaced people at home and overseas, and will lobby against cuts to funding the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, which would reduce resources to serve refugees resettled in the U.S.

“It is critical for Congress to fund refugee resettlement and relief in upcoming appropriations bills,” said Kathy Hertz, founder and executive director of DCRally4Refugees. “There is a groundswell of support for refugees in this country, people are looking for ways to get involved, and the U.S. should support refugees and displaced persons worldwide. Americans have a responsibility to help people who have been forced to escape horrific situations, like war and violence, for safety.”

DCRally4Refugees occurred August 28 in Washington, DC to raise awareness about the global refugee crisis, call for increased U.S. relief efforts and refugee resettlement at home and overseas, and provide tools and resources for support. The rally featured a variety of [speakers and performances](#) from 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Washington Monument’s outdoor Sylvan Theater.

Many attendees participated in the #SeaOfOrange by wearing orange, the color of life-jackets, which has become a symbol of the global refugee crisis after being worn by so many people escaping war and violence while risking their lives crossing bodies of water.

“I watched the rally as did other refugees in Nea Kavala refugee camp in Greece,” said Essa Alkeder, a Syrian refugee from Aleppo, Syria. “It meant so much to all of us to see the support



of people in America, and it gave us hope knowing people care about what is happening to us."

The rally streamed live online, and **archived video is on the [DCRally4Refugees Vimeo page](http://bit.ly/Video1-2DCRally4Refugees)** at <http://bit.ly/Video1-2DCRally4Refugees> (video 1/2) and <http://bit.ly/Video2-2DCRally4Refugees> (video 2/2). Participants shared the day's events on social media using with **#DCRally4Refugees**, **which trended on Twitter** during the event. **Event photos** are available for download at <http://bit.ly/PhotosDCRally4Refugees> (photo credit: DCRally4Refugees).

DCRally4Refugees also included a resource tent with supporting organizations and representatives that provided information, tools and resources, including: [Amnesty International](#), [Arab American Institute](#), [Church World Service \(CWS\)](#), [CODEPINK](#), [Human Rights First](#), [Iraqi Children's Foundation](#), [Jesuit Refugee Service](#), [Jewish World Watch](#), [Refugees International](#), [Refugees Welcome](#), [STAND - the student-led movement to end mass atrocities](#), [Syrian American Medical Society \(SAMS Foundation\)](#), [UNHCR - the UN Refugee Agency](#), [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee \(UUSC\)](#), [US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants \(UCRI\)](#) and [Veterans for American Ideals](#).

About DCRally4Refugees

DCRally4Refugees occurred August 28, 2016 in the nation's capital to raise awareness about the global refugee crisis, call for U.S. action to increase refugee protection and resettlement at home and overseas, and provide tools and resources for support. The rally was founded by a grassroots group of advocates inspired to help after volunteering directly with refugees fleeing war and violence in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and other regions. There are 65 million refugees and displaced persons worldwide—the largest displacement crisis on record. As fellow human beings, DCRally4Refugees believes that Americans have a responsibility to bear witness, amplify refugee voices, and support refugees as they dare to hope against all odds. DCRally4Refugees is completely dependent on individual contributions to cover rally costs. People can learn more, get involved, [buy a t-shirt](#) and [donate](#) at www.DCRally4Refugees.org.

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