



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Request for Coverage

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Official Press Credentials Required

**DCRALLY4REFUGEES IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM
AT THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT OUTDOOR SYLVAN THEATER**

ADVOCATES WILL RAISE AWARENESS TO SUPPORT REFUGEES WORLDWIDE

**PERFORMANCES BY PIHCINTU CHORUS OF 32 FEMALE REFUGEES, #ORANGEVEST,
SYRIAN OPERA SINGER, LUBANA AL QUNTAR, AND IRAQI POP/ROCK BAND, UTN1**

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Emmy Award-nominated Iraqi journalist, Ali Al-Mshakheel

**Former Iraqi Minister of the Interior and Ambassador to the U.N. and U.S., Samir Sumadaie
Grammy Award-winning Trumpeter, Songwriter and Platinum Music Producer, Keyon Harrold
Pediatrician Recently Returned from Aleppo, Syria, Dr. John Kahler**

Attendees will Create #SeaOfOrange to #StandForHumanity at #DCRally4Refugees

August 25, 2016 (Washington, DC)—In the midst of the greatest refugee crisis since World War II, advocates nationwide will gather at **DCRally4Refugees, Sunday, August 28, 2016 at the outdoor Sylvan Theater at the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, DC, 10:00 am – 2:30 pm (rain or shine)**. Anyone can [watch the DCRally4Refugees live stream](#) if they cannot attend.

The rally will raise awareness about the global refugee crisis and urge U.S. action—at home and overseas—to alleviate suffering through relief efforts and refugee resettlement. Everyone is encouraged to attend the historic rally, [buy a T-shirt](#) to help support the costs of the rally, and to spread the word using #DCRally4Refugees and #SeaOfOrange to stand in solidarity with refugees and displaced people worldwide.

DCRally4Refugees is 100 percent dependent on individual contributions. Supporters can text DCR4R to 56512 to donate an amount of their choice to DCRally4Refugees.

“After seeing the scale of human suffering with my own eyes while volunteering in Lesvos, Greece, I realized I had to help refugees in any way I could,” explained Kathy Hertz, founder and executive director of DCRally4Refugees. “Despite having no idea how I would finance a rally, I trusted in my desire to educate people about the global refugee crisis and show how we *can* each make a difference.”



Hertz adds, “Many people have shared with me their desire to help refugees, but did not know how to do so. I founded DCRally4Refugees to give them a way to help, provide tools, and create a large coming together of people for increased safe refugee resettlement and support. On the one-year anniversary of the drowning death of Aylan Kurdi, the young boy whose photo shocked the world, we unfortunately cannot say that things have changed. Refugees are still risking their lives daily and too many of them are dying in the process. I know we can do better.”

Steps from the U.S. Capitol, DCRally4Refugees will call on the U.S. to resettle more refugees and provide increased support to countries hosting refugees and organizations providing relief efforts overseas. The rally will offer resources for those who wish to help and raise a collective voice against intolerance.

In partnership with 42 organizations, the [DCRally4refugees postcard/petition](#) urges the U.S. to lead by example, and welcome and support refugees. Americans can sign the postcards/petitions, which will be hand delivered to Congress and the White House in September, leading up to the refugee summits organized by the United Nations General Assembly ([Summit for Refugees and Migrants](#)) and the White House ([Leaders’ Summit on Refugees](#)).

The **DCRally4Refugees resource tent** is an on-site area where rally-goers can engage with representatives from supporting organizations that will provide information, tools and resources for attendees who want to get involved and help refugees. Participating organizations include: [Amnesty International](#), [Arab American Institute](#), [Central American Resource Center \(CARECEN\)](#), [Church World Service \(CWS\)](#), [CODEPINK](#), [Human Rights First](#), [Iraqi Children’s Foundation](#), [Jesuit Refugee Service](#), [Jewish World Watch](#), [Refugee Start Force](#), [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 \(UUSC\)](#) and [US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants \(UCRI\)](#).

DCRally4Refugees 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, Americans have a responsibility to bear witness, amplify refugee voices, and support refugees as they dare to hope against all odds. People can learn the facts, get involved, [donate](#), support and join DCRally4Refugees at [www.DCRally4Refugees.org](#).

WHO: DCRally4Refugees

WHAT: Rally to raise awareness about the global refugee crisis and urge U.S. action—at home and overseas—to alleviate suffering through relief efforts and refugee resettlement.
(Speakers and performers below)

WHEN: Sunday, August 28, 2016, 10:00 am – 2:30 pm (rain or shine)

WHERE: Outdoor Sylvan Theater at the Washington Monument on the National Mall



2 15th Street NW, Washington, DC
[DCRally4Refugees Live Stream](#)

DETAILS: www.DCRally4Refugees.org

MEDIA RSVP: Lauren Cozzi, 202-853-9608, press@dcrally4refugees.org.

Official Press Credentials Required for RSVP and Event Check-In: proof of employment by or assignment for a news publication, organization or program that is previously established, independent and regularly updated with original news.

EMCEE: **Sarah Browning**, Split This Rock co-founder and executive director, Institute for Policy Studies associate fellow, Other Words featured writer, *Whiskey in the Garden of Eden* author, *D.C. Poets Against the War: An Anthology* coeditor

SPEAKERS: **Tom Andrews**, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) president and CEO
Ahmed Badr, former refugee, published writer, poet, photographer, 2016 Global Teen Leader, founder of [Narratio](#) and Mesopotami
Ehklas, refugee from Darfur, teacher, speaker, activist, advocate
Julide Glanz, [Liberation of Christian and Yazidi Children of Iraq \(CYCI\)](#) coordinator and project manager for Greece; volunteer
Sarah Hall, Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)
Keyon Harrold, Grammy Award-winning trumpeter, songwriter, and platinum music producer; founder of Compositions for a Cause; co-writer of [Running, aka Refugee Song](#)
Sham Hasan, Iraqi former U.S. Army linguist, resettled in the U.S. through the Special Visa Program for Iraqi and Afghan interpreters; refugee advocate and activist
Hans Hogrefe, Refugees International director of policy and advocacy
Dr. John Kahler, Chicago-based pediatrician—recently returned from Aleppo, Syria—after spending the last year working with Syrian refugees in Jordan, Greece and Lebanon
Kayra Martinez, founder, [Love Without Borders](#), Art Without Borders; volunteer
Cindy Maxted, mindfulness trainer
Ali Al-Mshakheel, Emmy Award nominated Iraqi journalist reporting for ABC News, The Times of London, NPR, The New Yorker magazine, and Voices of Iraq news agency
Nyawal, raised in a refugee camp in Ethiopia, now an honor student at the University of Southern Maine majoring in international studies
Andrea Pizziconi, singer, songwriter and social entrepreneur; founder of education infrastructure social impact investment firm, Africa Integras, and Compositions for a Cause; co-writer of [Running, aka Refugee Song](#)
Dr. Timothy Ring, forensic psychologist specializing in trauma treatment; volunteer who recently worked with refugees in Lesbos, Greece



Rocio, immigrant from El Salvador; sophomore at Casco Bay High School, Portland, Maine

Joseph Sackor, Liberia Medical Mission team chairman; UN Refugee Congress Delegate for Pennsylvania; former refugee from Liberia, West Africa; community organizer

Suzanne Akhras Sahloul, [Syrian Community Network](#) founder and executive director

Samir Sumadaie, former Iraqi Minister of the Interior and former Ambassador to the U.N. and U.S.

Zareen Taj, refugee from Afghanistan who grew up in Pakistan, women's rights/human rights activist; author of *Journey to empowerment: Women after Taliban*

SSgt (ret.) Alex Vazquez, U.S. Air Force

PERFORMERS: [Dominic Fragman](#), solo trio

[Sistah Joy](#), award-winning poet, author and literary activist

[#OrangeVest by Georgia Lale](#), performance art

[Pihcintu](#), chorus of 32 female refugees from around the world

[Gregory Porter](#), special presentation following viewing of Compositions for a Cause video, [Running, aka Refugee Song](#), featuring hip hop artist/actor, [Common](#)

Lubana al Quntar, Syrian opera singer, [Refugee Orchestra Project](#)

[UTN1](#), top-selling Iraqi pop/rock band

Pivot Zotamou, refugee from Guinea, rapper, public speaker, [Soccer Without Borders](#) graduate

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