THE TEMPLE
CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM

Lenny Sarko, Rabbi
Richard B. Safran, Rabbi Emeritus

ASKING CONGRESS TO PROTECT REFUGEES

February 9, 2017

We are members of Congregation Achduth Vesholom in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and from a moral and spiritual standpoint, we strongly support welcoming refugees to the United States.

The refugee crisis is now larger than any point in human history. Over 65 million people have been displaced due to conflict and violence. The U.S. government must respond with urgency and compassion for the world's refugees. We can do that while also maintaining the highest levels of security for our country. It is not an either/or situation.

We are alarmed by the heightened rhetoric about refugees, and we urge you to use your unique leadership role to welcome refugees, and to oppose any legislation that seeks to halt or restrict resettlement or funding for any group of refugees.

This year, Congregation Achduth Vesholom, has made a commitment to take action for refugees through the HIAS Welcome Campaign.

For Jews, the global refugee crisis resonates deeply with our own history and experience. Time and time again, we Jews were refugees, fleeing violence and persecution. We know what it looked like for this country to provide opportunity and welcome, and we know what it looked like for the doors to slam shut in our greatest hour of need.

While we defer to your political expertise, we can speak with authority on our religious principles and our heritage. Guided by our people’s history and the Jewish value of “welcoming the stranger," we urge you to keep America's doors open to refugees.

Sincerely,

Steven Alan Carr, PhD
Chair, Social Action Committee

on behalf of the Congregation Achduth Vesholom Board of Directors

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