

How Can I Pray

The worldwide refugee crisis is large and complex. The number of people forced from their homelands to seek safety far exceeds the number of those resettled in durable solution. In fact, less than 1% of the world's refugee population is ever resettled. It is only by the merciful intervention of our kind, compassionate and holy God that any long-term solution will be found. Here are a few prayer prompts to guide you.

Thank-you for praying!

1. Essential Needs

Pray that God would graciously provide for the essential needs of security, shelter, water, food and medical care for refugees and internally displaced people. Pray that God would hear their cries and lead them to a place of safety.

2. Peacemakers and Peace

The best durable solution is peace – an end to war, violence and persecution. Pray that God would raise up peacemakers and bring peace to countries where these issues are forcing people from their homes. Pray for peace and safety in major refugee producing countries like Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan, Somalia, D.R. Congo, South Sudan, Mali, Central Africa Republic, Nigeria, Myanmar, Iraq, Columbia, Viet Nam, and Eritrea.

3. Healing and Security

Pray for forcibly displaced brothers and sisters who live in difficult circumstances and with uncertain futures. Pray that God would give them their daily bread. Pray that he will heal their hearts, minds and bodies from traumas suffered. Pray that they would know God's presence with them, and that God would renew their faith, joy and strength with each sunrise. Pray that God would give them a hope and a future.

4. Refugee Churches

Philip was forced to flee Jerusalem due to persecution. He found his way to Samaria, and “proclaimed the Messiah there”. Although a refugee, Philip became a source of great joy in his city of refuge (Acts 8:4-8).

Many refugee churches are following Philip's example. They are boldly proclaiming Christ in their countries of refuge. They are planting churches. They are caring for orphans and widows in their

host country. They are setting up Bible Schools within refugee camps in order to train church leaders. They do all of this with very few resources.

5. Women and Children

Pray for refugee women and children. They are among the world's most vulnerable and make up more than half of the world's refugee population. Pray that God would protect them from people who seek to prey upon them and exploit their vulnerability.

Pray for children who are born in refugee camps not knowing the security of home. Pray that their physical, mental and emotional needs would be met.

6. Refugee Youth

Pray for refugee youth. They are often alone and far from home. They may be told that they can only stay temporarily in their country of refuge. They cannot return home and they have little reason to believe that they will one day be resettled to another country.

Refugee youth face many challenges in a world in which they have no reason to hope for a better future. Some consider joining the army, education is a challenge or non-existent, many are parents themselves, and hope often runs thin.

7. Countries Hosting Refugees

Pray for countries hosting refugees. 85% of the world's refugee population is found in developing countries. They carry a heavy load – sometimes at great risk.

Large waves of refugees can be difficult for countries to absorb and care for – even with assistance from the UN. Pray for major refugee hosting countries like Pakistan, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Kenya, Chad, Ethiopia, China and the USA.

Ironically, many of the host countries also produce refugees. Pray for the governments of these countries, for the decision makers, for justice and stability for the native born and the asylum seeker.

8. UN and Humanitarian Agencies Serving Refugees

Pray for the UN Refugee Agency and Humanitarian Agencies serving refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDP), Canadian Baptist Ministries along with the many SAHs and settlement agencies here in Canada who are working on behalf of the forcibly displaced.

Humanitarian organizations work many long hours to assist with the essential needs for security, shelter, water, food, medical care, educational opportunities, resettlement, etc. They all work with less funding than is needed to provide their services.

9. The Refugee Highway Partnership

Pray for the Refugee Highway Partnership, a dynamic and growing international network of individuals, churches and Christian agencies that are finding ways to help local churches seek the welfare and protection of forcibly displaced people.

Pray that God will continue to grow this network of Christians burdened to seek the welfare of forcibly displaced people in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and South Asia.

Pray that as they share learning and resources, local churches would become more effective in welcoming and loving the forcibly displaced people in their communities. Learn more at www.refugeehighway.net.

10. Asylum-Seekers¹

Pray for asylum seekers who often risk their lives trying to get to a country where they hope to find refuge. Pray for asylum seekers arriving in Canada and for the border service personnel who are their first point of contact. Prayer for temporary settlement homes like Matthew House in Toronto, Fort Erie, Windsor and Ottawa.

11. Sponsoring Churches

Pray for churches across Canada who are sponsoring refugees and welcoming newcomers. Pray for a smooth and successful application process and arrival. Pray for healthy relationships between the newcomers and their hosts. Pray that newcomers would settle well and thrive in their new home.

¹ Someone who has been forced to flee their home but who has yet to go through the Refugee Status Determination process to be officially identified as a "refugee" by the UNHCR or another identifying body.