



Reinforcing the traditional role of faith communities in offering sanctuary and, indeed hospitality to refugees, faith-based leaders today committed to offering their continued and additional support to refugees, including children, on their journey to safety, including in reception and admission, meeting protection or service delivery needs and supporting communities to find solutions such as private sponsorship or scholarship programmes.

Religious Leaders Statement

We recognise that while our commitments are important contributions, there are more humanitarian needs than humanitarian resources available for the 36.4 million refugees worldwide today. The consequences are stark, affecting displaced people and the communities hosting them. By doing so, we recommit to the [“Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders”](#) 2012.

We have come to the Global Refugee Forum, held in Geneva this week from 13-15 December 2023, to pledge our collective support to refugees, share the responsibility with those who host them and work together and inter-religiously where possible to improve the lives of refugees regardless of their nationality, race, religious beliefs, class, or political opinions.

We challenge the representations of refugees in our media, reminding ourselves and our communities that seeking asylum is a basic human right and that attitudes and policies can create real-life harm, marginalizing and dehumanizing people who are escaping war, disaster and persecution.

We commit to uniting around our common values, goals and activities and establishing effective and long-lasting partnerships to protect and support refugees, those displaced by climate change and their host countries, magnifying the impact of everyone’s efforts.

In our work, we will continue speaking up and defending the individual right to seek asylum, currently under threat in many countries. We will advocate for safe passage, humanitarian corridors, and facilitation of humanitarian visas.

We recognize the contribution of refugees. They bring their skills, ambitions, courage, and dreams for peace to their communities through forgiveness and reconciliation.

We welcome the opportunity the Global Refugee Forum provides to work inter-religiously and with other sectors— states, the private sector and charitable foundations, international financial

institutions, UN agencies, humanitarian and development organisations of all sizes, cities and local authorities, refugee-led organisations, academics, individual citizens and others.

We pledge concrete action to support refugees. We commit to using our voices to show that change is possible and that there is a path from despair to hope and from hope to action.

We call on religious leaders everywhere to join us.

Anglican Communion

Baha'i International Community

Episcopal Church

Ecumenical Patriarchate

Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha

Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities

Interfaith Mediation Centre

Japan Buddhist Federation

Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

New York Board of Rabbis

Plateforme Interreligieuse De Genève

Religions For Peace

Rissho Kosei-Kai

Soka Gakkai International

South African Conference of Bishops

United Methodist Committee on Relief

World Council of Churches

World Evangelical Alliance

The Church of Latter-Day Saints

Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society