



Check in:
Name, Leadership Role,
Congregation

Updates on Supporting Refugees

First U of Chicago

- RefugeeOne Co-Sponsor Congregation



- Provide cash assistance to help alleviate initial financial struggles
- Set up the apartment with furniture



First U of Chicago

- Meet the refugees at the airport
- Provide groceries for the first few weeks.
- Visit refugees approximately once a week, during the first 90 days.



First U of Chicago

- Meet the refugees at the airport
- Provide groceries for the first few weeks.
- Visit refugees approximately once a week, during the first 90 days.



Syrian Refugees & MN

- In 2015, 1 Syrian refugee family (7 people) was placed in MN₁
- Syrian refugees to Minn. since 1979: 9



1. <http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2015/11/20/reality-check-syrian-refugees-and-minnesota/>

Two Year Process for Syrians

Why It Takes Two Years for Syrian Refugees to Enter the U.S.

By HAEYOUN PARK and LARRY BUCHANAN NOV. 20, 2015

Syrians must pass many layers of security checks before being admitted to the United States, a process that can take two years or longer. In most cases, the refugees do not enter the United States until the very end. They are also subject to an additional layer of checks beyond those for refugees of other nationalities; after the Paris attacks, the House voted to further tighten screening procedures. Since 2011, the United States has admitted fewer than 2,000 Syrian refugees.

1. **Registration** with the United Nations.
2. **Interview** with the United Nations.
3. **Refugee status** granted by the United Nations.

4. **Referral** for resettlement in the United States.

The United Nations decides if the person fits the definition of a refugee and whether to refer the person to a country for resettlement. Only the most vulnerable are referred, accounting for fewer than 1 percent of refugees worldwide. Some people spend years waiting in refugee camps.

5. **Interview** with State Department contractors.

6. First **background check**.

7. **Higher-level** background check for some.

8. Another **background check**.

The refugee's name is run through law enforcement and intelligence databases for terrorist or criminal history. Some go through a higher-level clearance before they can continue. A third background check was introduced in 2008 for Iraqis but has since been expanded to all refugees ages 14 to 65.

9. First **fingerprint screening**; photo taken.
10. Second **fingerprint screening**.
11. Third **fingerprint screening**.

The refugee's fingerprints are screened against F.B.I. and Homeland Security databases, which contain watch list information and past immigration encounters, including if the refugee previously applied for a visa at a United States embassy. Fingerprints are also checked against those collected by the Defense Department during operations in Iraq.

12. **Case reviewed** at United States immigration headquarters.
13. Some cases referred for **additional review**.

Syrian applicants must undergo these two additional steps. Each is reviewed by a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services refugee specialist. Cases with “national security indicators” are given to the Homeland Security Department’s fraud detection unit.

14. **Extensive, in-person interview** with Homeland Security officer.

Most of the interviews with Syrians have been done in Jordan and Turkey.

15. Homeland Security **approval is required**.

If the House bill becomes law, the director of the F.B.I., the Homeland Security secretary and the director of national intelligence would be required to confirm that the applicant poses no threat.

16. **Screening** for contagious diseases.
17. **Cultural orientation** class.
18. Matched with an American **resettlement agency**.

Two Year Process for Syrians₂

19. **Multi-agency security check** before leaving for the United States.

Because of the long amount of time between the initial screening and departure, officials conduct a final check before the refugee leaves for the United States.

20. Final **security check** at an American airport.

2. http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/11/20/us/why-it-takes-two-years-for-syrian-refugees-to-apply-to-enter-the-united-states.html?_r=0

2016 Increase in MN Refugees

- Minnesota is poised to receive more refugees in 2016 than in any year for almost a decade₃
- In 2015 - 2,338 total, almost 45 percent hailed from Somalia, and about 40 percent were Karen refugees from Myanmar, also known as Burma.



3. <http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-is-gearing-up-to-receive-more-refugees-in-2016/363692201/>

MN Refugee Services



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
of Minnesota



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
Refugee Services



Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
for changing lives



**Arrive
Ministries**

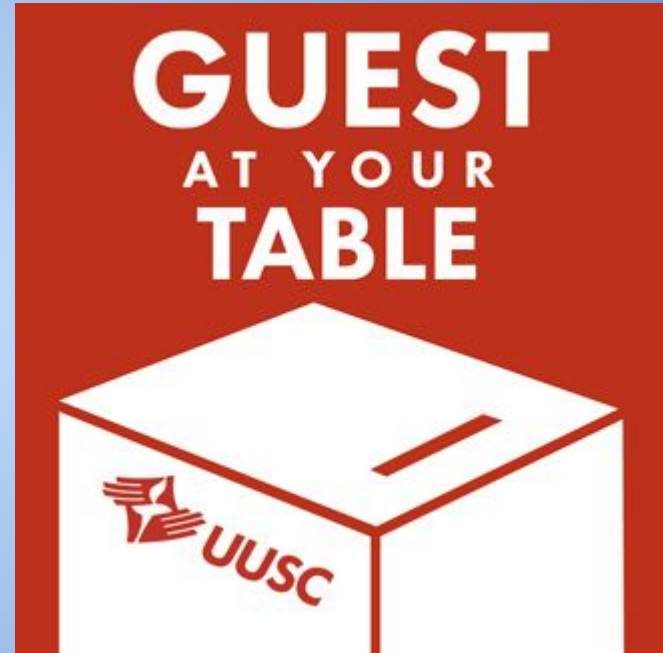
Serving Refugee & Immigrant Neighbors Together

UU Refugee Services



UUSC: Guest at Your Table

- This year *Guest at Your Table* highlights the empowerment of refugees and displaced people.



Immigration Policy Work



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

MN Resources

- International Institute of MN:
<http://www.iimn.org/services/refugee-resettlement/>
- MN Council of Churches Refugee Services:
<http://www.mnchurches.org/refugeeservices/>
- Lutheran Social Service of MN:
<http://www.lssmn.org/refugeeservices/>
- Arrive Ministries:
<http://arriveministries.org/who-we-serve/refugee-populations/>

National Resources

- refugeeONE:
<http://www.refugeeone.org/co-sponsor.html>



UU Resources

- International Council of UUs:
<http://icuu.net>
- UU Service Committee:
<http://www.uusc.org/>
- Guest at Your Table:
<http://www.uusc.org/guest-at-your-table-for-beginners>

UU Resources

- Standing on the Side of Love:
<http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/immigrant-justice/>

Sources

- <http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2015/11/20/reality-check-syrian-refugees-and-minnesota/>
- http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/11/20/us/why-it-takes-two-years-for-syrian-refugees-to-apply-to-enter-the-united-states.html?_r=0
- <http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-is-gearing-up-to-receive-more-refugees-in-2016/363692201/>

Discussion