

National Capital Synagogue Coalition for Refugees and Immigrants (NASCENT)

Inspired by the work of the New York Synagogue Coalition on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis, HIAS Welcome Campaign, Bet Mishpachah and other congregations in the greater Washington area have established a Jewish coalition to support refugees and immigrants to:

1. Amplify our voices through local, regional, state, and national advocacy;
2. Increase the engagement of Jewish groups in support of refugees and immigrants; and
3. Share our knowledge, solutions to problems, material goods as needed, skills, and other resources.

Mission:

- Organize members of our own congregations and other members of the Jewish community in this region to advocate for the entry of refugees and against unjust immigration policies, through educating individuals and fostering collaboration and joint action by our member communities;
- Encourage the Jewish community throughout the DC metropolitan area, including our congregations, to help refugees and new immigrants with building deep connections to their new communities in America, with educational information, financial resources, material goods, and personal support throughout the immigration and resettlement process, as possible;
- Engage in practical advocacy for legislative and regulatory changes on the local and state levels to make DC-area communities a more welcoming environment for refugees and immigrants. This may include, for example, working with our local and state governments and community allies to ensure that housing policies and regulations facilitate the resettlement of new families and enacting additional legislation and policies that create a welcoming environment for refugees and immigrants. When necessary, we will work with higher governance levels to remove structural barriers to the legal immigration and admission of refugees.

We are motivated by our religious values and the holy texts that animate them.

We are also obligated by our historic experiences of oppression.

We have been targets of persecution through the centuries.

We know the pain of being stateless and friendless refugees and immigrants who were branded as religious or political enemies.

Along with scores of other American Jews, we are committed to ending the oppression of all refugee and immigrant groups.