U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Renews Call for Resettlement of 100,000 Syrian Refugees

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) recognizes the good first step announced by the Obama Administration to increase annual refugee resettlement numbers over the next two years. On Sunday, Secretary of State John Kerry committed to raising the numbers of refugees the U.S. will resettle from 70,000 this past year to 85,000 in fiscal year 2016 and 100,000 in 2017.

“We are pleased that the administration has taken this step. It has been our request since 2011 that the U.S. demonstrate leadership regarding the crisis in Syria. However, this initial step does not begin to meet the needed level of response and we renew our call for 100,000 Syrians to be resettled in the U.S. in FY16. We cannot continue to stand by while innocent refugees are begging for protection,” said Lavinia Limon, President and CEO of USCRI. “We continue to work with our colleagues and member agencies of Refugee Council USA representing hundreds of community based refugee resettlement agencies across the nation who are fielding calls daily from eager volunteers who want to help Syrians.”

“As a nation of immigrants we know better than most the importance of providing hope and opportunity to those fleeing persecution and expect our government to continue to lead on this issue.”

For over 100 years, USCRI has protected the rights and addressed the needs of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide and supported their transition to a dignified life. With a network of over 125 agencies and offices across the nation, we champion human rights and provide for human needs for refugees, immigrants, survivors of trafficking, unaccompanied immigrant children and other vulnerable populations.

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