

10 Ways to Pray for Refugees



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

Pray that God would raise up peacemakers and bring peace to countries where wars, violence and persecution are forcing people from their homes. Pray for peace and safety in major refugee producing countries like Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, D.R. Congo, South Sudan, Mali, Central Africa Republic, Nigeria, Myanmar, Iraq, Columbia, Viet Nam, and Eritrea.

3. Healing and Security

Pray for our 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 next to no resources. Let's pray for them – that they would be a source of great joy to the people in their countries of refuge.

5. Women and Children

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

6. Refugee Youth

Pray for refugee youth. They are far from home. They are 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 (less than 1% of the world's refugee population is ever resettled). Refugee youth face many challenges in a world in which they have no reason to hope for a better future.

7. Countries Hosting Refugees

Pray for countries hosting refugees. 86% 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.

8. UN and Humanitarian Agencies Serving Refugees

Pray for The UN Refugee Agency and Humanitarian Agencies serving refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDP). They work tirelessly to assist with their essential needs for security, shelter, water, food, medical care, educational opportunities, resettlement, etc. They often struggle to have the funding needed to provide their services. One example is the desperate situation in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya, where over 3,000 new refugees arrive on a weekly basis. In 2010, the camp population was 80,000. Today it is over 150,000. UNHCR and its implementing partners have funding for less than 2,000 refugee shelters. 6,500 more shelters are needed. Refugees without shelters survive in floorless UN tents.

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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, that 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-Seekers

Pray for Asylum-Seekers like Mr. B. in the USA who struggle to find employment and affordable housing. Pray that God would enable his family, still in his country of origin, to be reunited with him in the USA. Pray for Asylum-Seekers in Europe. Many have made long and dangerous journeys across the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea to reach a country in Europe in which they hoped to find refuge – only to find that they are unwelcome. Some survive on the streets. Others are kept in refugee detention centers.

Of course, IAFR needs your prayers as well! Learn more about our work and opportunities to partner with us at www.IAFR.org.