

WHO WE ARE

Refugee Congress is a national membership-based organization built and led by refugees, asylees, and other vulnerable migrants. Represented in all 50 states and the District of Columbia by an elected Delegate and a team of associates, we use our voices and experiences to inform and influence decision-makers on critical issues that affect our communities.

Our members come from more than 30 countries across five continents, and represent a diverse range of professions, including doctors, nurses, teachers, students, journalists, civil servants, business owners, attorneys, social workers, nonprofit managers, religious leaders, and many others.

Our vision is simple:

Wherever conversations take place that impact refugees, asylum-seekers, and other vulnerable migrants, our voices must be **equal** partners at the table.

WHAT WE DO

Working at the local, state, and national levels, Refugee Congress collaborates with refugee resettlement agencies, nonprofit organizations, public and private sector organizations, and grassroots organizers across the nation on common goals and interests. We are proud members of [Refugee Council USA](#), steering committee members of [We Are All America](#) and the [Opportunity for All](#) Leadership Table, and a core founding partner of the [Refugee Advocacy Lab](#).



Advocacy

Refugee Congress Delegates work closely with their communities and elected officials to advocate for local, state, and national policies that promote inclusion and dignity for all refugees and asylum-seekers in the U.S.

From digital access and language inclusion to healthcare access and medical licensing reform, Delegates work together with allies to ensure that policies at every level are welcoming, equitable, and inclusive.



Public Education and Narrative Shift

Refugee Congress Delegates use lived expertise to inform the public and policy-makers about the many ways refugees contribute to our communities. Through webinars, panels, roundtables, and more, Delegates help shift the narrative around refugees and asylees and highlight the importance of rebuilding the U.S. resettlement program and restoring asylum protections.



Leadership Development

Refugee Congress builds the leadership capacity of refugees and asylees. Working closely with our partners and extended networks of refugee and asylee leaders, we offer peer mentorship, resources, and trainings in effective advocacy, civic engagement, strategic partnership building, storytelling for change, organizing, and more.



Year in Review

- ✓ Led, planned, or participated in **100+** events, convenings, panels, roundtables, and press conferences
- ✓ Co-led and sponsored leadership development trainings with core partners including the [Refugee Advocacy Lab](#), [WeaveTales](#), [We Are All America](#), and [Refugee Council USA](#)
- ✓ Launched a new [website](#) with interactive features to better engage the public in our work
- ✓ Featured in 40+ news articles and op-eds across 25+ local, state, national, and international outlets including [BBC News](#), [CNN](#), [Business Insider](#), [Asia Times](#), [San Diego Union Tribune](#), [Portland Tribune](#), [New Jersey Star Ledger](#), [Lincoln Star](#), and [Kansas Reflector](#)
- ✓ Served on the Executive Committee for the launch of [We Are All America's](#) Opportunity for All Leadership Table
- ✓ Co-led the [Businesses for Refugees Pledge](#) in partnership with 11 organizations, garnering more than 420 signatures from businesses across the US in all 50 states
- ✓ Led and participated in critical advocacy actions to promote inclusion and welcome, restore refugee resettlement and asylum protections, and push back on harmful policies
- ✓ Joined the [Welcome With Dignity Advisory](#) Committee.
- ✓ Launched the [Refugee Storytellers Collective](#), an initiative of the [Refugee Advocacy Lab](#) in partnership with [WeaveTales](#), [USA for UNHCR](#), [Refugee Council USA](#), [We Are All America](#), and [Refugees International](#)
- ✓ Launched the Refugee Congress [Blog](#)
- ✓ Kicked off a yearlong co-design process to create a U.S. Refugee Advisory Board, in partnership with [Refugee Council USA](#) and Georgetown University's [Institute for the Study of International Migration](#)
- ✓ Co-led the crafting and delivery of a letter from refugee leaders calling upon the Biden Administration to keep its promise to increase the Presidential Determination on refugee resettlement, which garnered [more than 260 signatures](#) and [received media engagement](#)
- ✓ ...Celebrated our 10-year anniversary!

To learn more about Refugee Congress' work, please contact Nili Sarit Yossinger, Executive Director, at nili.yossinger@refugeecongress.org.

