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The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member
Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins,

I am writing on behalf of the over 100,000 members, advocates, and supporters of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) in support of refugees and refugee resettlement efforts in the United States. We believe that welcoming refugees is a moral imperative informed by our Jewish history of seeking safety in the United States and our tradition of caring for vulnerable people who find themselves in alien lands.

NCJW is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Welcoming immigrants and refugees is part of our organization's history. More than a century ago, NCJW established an agency at Ellis Island to support and aid immigrant families, with partner offices in 250 cities providing job training and legal aid for immigrant women. Today, NCJW continues to advocate for the rights of immigrants and refugees. We remain committed to caring for the most vulnerable — in particular members of the LGBTQ community, and women and children. Our experiences and traditions urge us to fight back against xenophobia and exclusion. Many Jews remember our own families' experiences as refugees from war, displacement, and religious persecution.

The current administration has cut the number of people who qualify for the resettlement program by an alarming 75% in the face of the world's worst refugee crisis. The admissions goal for the 2020 Fiscal Year was set to 18,000 – the lowest in 40 years. Similarly, in 1938 the U.S. let in just under 18,000 Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany. The cutback on such programs and the mistreatment of refugees and asylum seekers as they enter this country are dangerous assaults on the many who are fleeing violence and persecution. **We urge you to hold this administration accountable for the treatment and resettlement of refugees and to return the number of refugees the United States commits to resettling to its historic average of 95,000.**

If you have any questions, please contact Faith Williams, Associate Director of Government Relations and Advocacy at fwilliams@ncjw.org.

Sincerely,

Jody Rabhan
Chief Policy Officer
National Council of Jewish Women

