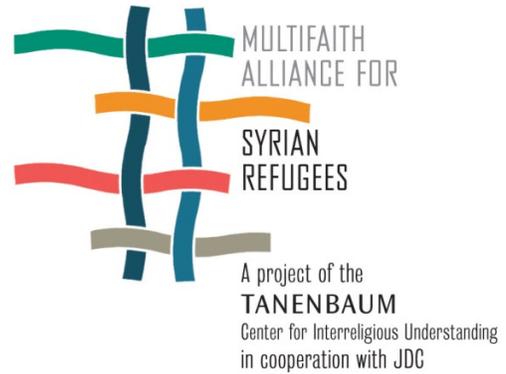


"Thou shalt not stand idly by the blood of thy neighbor."—Leviticus 19:16



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MULTIFAITH ALLIANCE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES CALLS ON CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION TO FUND AND ACCELERATE RESETTLEMENT PROCESSES

Commitments to Resettle Refugees Can Be Fulfilled Only by Unclogging Bottlenecks in Processing

New York, N.Y. Sept. 11, 2015 – "President Barack Obama's commitment to admitting at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in the next fiscal year is welcome, indeed," said Dr. Georgette F. Bennett, Founder of the Multifaith Alliance, the nation's leading interfaith response to the worst humanitarian crisis of our generation. "However, the United States must exert its historical and moral authority to bring global leaders together to resolve this crisis for the more than four million refugees and 12.2 million who are internally displaced or under siege in Syria."

Yesterday's announcement is a significant step forward, but the cap must be raised even higher. The Multifaith Alliance has called for the U.S. to resettle 65,000 Syrian refugees by the end of 2016 – half of the United Nations' request. "To fulfill yesterday's promise, significant Congressional funding is needed. We can unclog the refugee pipeline without compromising national security by focusing on the women and children, who are the most vulnerable and pose the least risk, and establishing uniform security protocols across all agencies involved," said Bennett.

MFA also recommends that the State Department reinstate security training and certification to allow NGOs to originate more referrals to the U.S and permit bulk processing.

The Multifaith Alliance, convened at its founding by the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, is made up of 44 faith-based and secular organizations. MFA's mission is to mobilize global, multifaith support to alleviate the humanitarian crisis, heighten awareness to the dangers, and advance future stability in the region.

MFA activities are a project of Tanenbaum, except funding for humanitarian aid, which is distributed through JDC.