Statement on the U.S. Government’s Limit on Refugees

Alliance of Baptists Board of Directors
September, 2019

The Alliance of Baptists board of directors in its 2019 fall meeting notes that historically, since the passage of the 1980 Refugee Act, the United States has set an average admissions goal of 95,000 refugees annually. The current Administration, however, set an admissions goal for this year FY 2019 of 30,000 and have just announced an admission goal for next year FY 2020 of 18,000.

These appalling severe cuts in refugee admissions are heartbreaking and cruel, and are causing irreparable damage to refugee families, U.S. communities, and the infrastructure in place to welcome and support new arrivals. Cutting the goal to such an extreme low is a mistake that will put the lives of thousands of refugee families—the most desperate people in the world—at dire risk. The Alliance of Baptists takes seriously our biblical call to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the stranger. We are particularly concerned about refugees fleeing countries where recent U.S. military actions have caused the violence and insecurity.

The soul of our country is at stake. We will not be silent. We condemn in the strongest terms the Administration’s recent decision on moral and biblical grounds.

We, the members of the board of the Alliance of Baptists in our 2019 fall board meeting, recommit to live out the Great Criteria given to us from Jesus (Matthew 25). We commit to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked and visit those in prison. In light of the extreme cuts being proposed, we, the board of directors of the Alliance of Baptists, express our solidarity with refugees.

We also denounce the shameful abdication of the United States’ humanitarian leadership in the world, and call on Congress to reject this Administration’s proposal. We urgently implore Congress, the State Department and the Administration to reaffirm our nation’s identity as a refuge for the persecuted.