



Surviving the Holidays:

How to talk to family about refugees & immigrants

It's the holidays! Which means lots of time with family and friends, and likely some **awkward** conversations. If you're passionate about refugee and immigrant rights, keep reading for tips on how to tackle these issues to help change hearts and minds.

Refugees and Immigrants Are People Just Like Us

Immigrants and refugees love their families and have dreams and hopes for the future like ours. Refugees are children, parents, siblings, and grandparents looking for a safe place to call home, often fleeing their countries due to violence and persecution. They deserve our welcome and compassion, not hatred and fear. We would certainly want to be welcomed if we were in a similar situation, and some of our proudest moments as a country are when we have assisted those in need.



Immigrants Enrich our Country

Does grandma still talk about how her parents celebrated holidays with traditions in their home country? Remind her this means they were immigrants! Our nation proudly welcomed many of our own ancestors, who arrived with hopes of creating a better life. Immigrants enrich our communities, bringing diversity, resiliency, and new experiences. (They also enrich our economy, as 40% of Fortune 500 companies were started by immigrants or their children).



Trump's Continued Bans are Devastating Refugees

President Trump's Executive Orders severely affected refugees and Muslim immigrants. Many were detained at airports or stopped from boarding flights. This was crushing for refugees hoping to reunite with family members or flee war. The delays also caused previously passed security and medical clearances to expire, forcing some to begin the lengthy process all over again. The October 24th refugee ban continues to separate families and prevent people from finding safety.



Refugee Resettlement is Safe

Refugees are the **most vetted** individuals to enter the U.S. They undergo health checks, in-person interviews, and multiple security screenings by agencies including the FBI, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, State Department, and National Counter Terrorism Center, a process that takes on average 18-24 months. Refugees enter the U.S. to build a better life for themselves and love their new country for giving them a second chance.

