



“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a **STRANGER** and you *welcomed* me.” – Matthew 25:35

What does God say about refugees?

Matthew 2

Exodus 23:9

Leviticus 19:33-34

Hebrews 13:1-2



What is the difference between a refugee, asylum seeker, immigrant & migrant?



Statistics

- 110 MILLION forcibly displaced people worldwide
- 36.4 million are refugees
- More than **half** of all refugees are children.
- Less than 1% of displaced people were resettled
- Countries with highest refugee populations?
- 6 Million Palestinians refugees

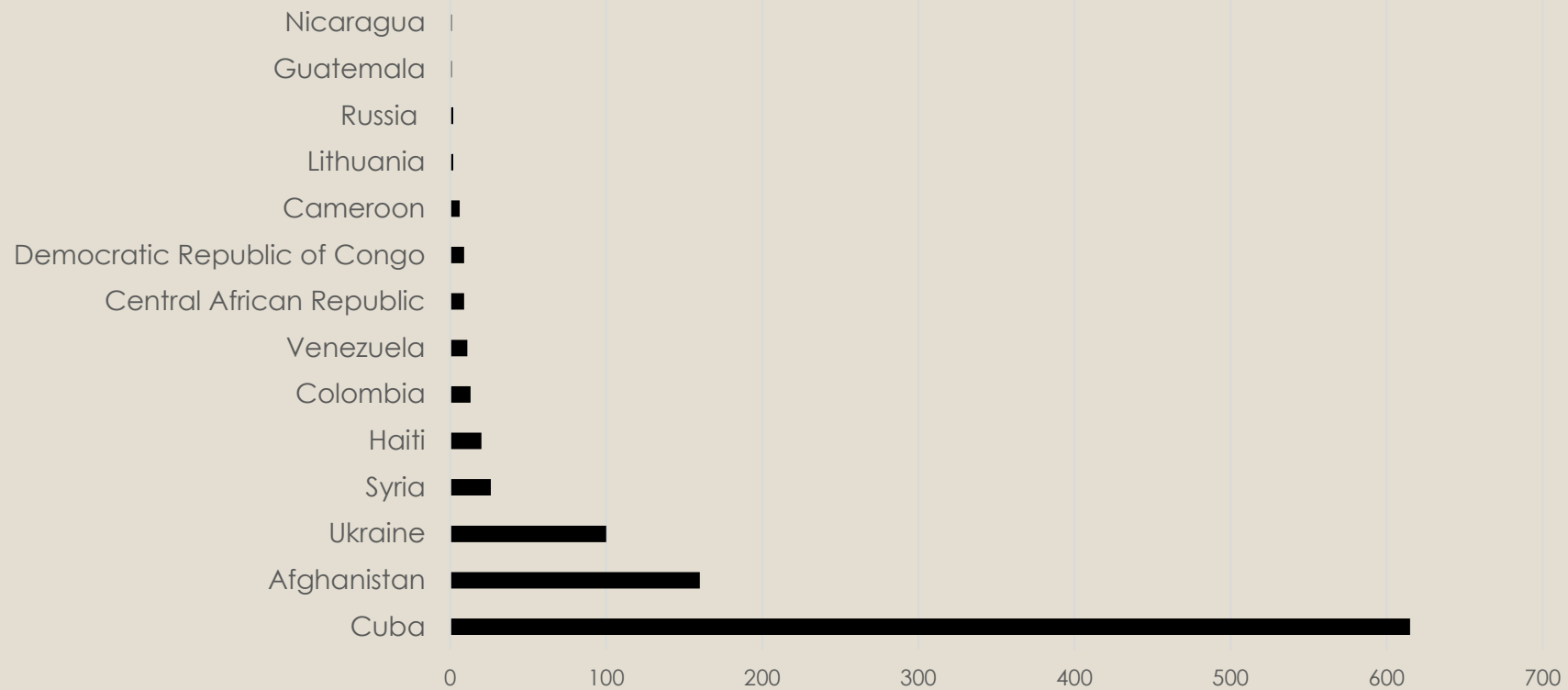
Refugees in America

- In 1980, the annual refugee cap in U.S. was 231,700.
- In 2020, the annual cap hit its lowest point: 18,000.
- The 2023 cap is 125,000.



Refugees in Colorado Springs

LFSRM Refugee & Asylee Colorado Springs
Number of Individuals Served (Aug 2023)



God is
bringing
the nations
to our front
door.



Why should
we care?

Stories of
refugee friends



Jen Nolte: A Nabila Story

Youth Mentorship- Austin Backus

Wasim, Bonki and Justin

Migrants usually have choices, refugees don't

no one leaves home unless
home is the mouth of a
shark . . .
you have to understand,
that no one puts their
children in a boat
unless the water is safer
than the land

Extract from *Home* by
Warsan Shire



What has HTAC been doing?

- Cultural linkages- building relationships with our new neighbors
- School supplies for refugee families (HTAC funding)
- Business start-up help for an Afghan family (HTAC funding)
- Giftcards for Cubans (HTAC funding)
- Legal/Medical immigration help for families through Catholic Charities of Central Colorado (HTAC funding)
- Swim team and supplies for Nabila's family.
- Household items and coat drives.
- Baby supplies.

What can we do?

- Cultural Mentorship Team (through LFS): welcome a newly arriving refugee family by helping them learn the culture (shopping, bus, school, work, etc), providing ESL or language partnership, building friendship, etc. This step would require us to form an HTAC team with a minimum of 5 people/6 month commitment. And we NEED a leader!
- Nabila's Family: we are looking for an HTAC family to come alongside the Nolte family to build relationship in the spring.
- Youth mentorship: see Austin Backus to learn more. Register with LFS.
- Other ideas?

Questions & Next Steps

- Questions?
- Next Steps:
 - Contact Amy Schulte at 314-750-9263 or amy.kushner@gmail.com to indicate interest in this ministry.
 - HTAC will consider next steps based on degree of interest.
 - Cultural Mentorship Team through Lutheran Family Services?
 - Need someone to take leadership.
 - LFS training required, will start after the new year. Ask Amy for details.

