



Letter-Writing Guidelines

During the month of April show your solidarity for refugees across Europe by writing letters for individuals and families who need to know they are not forgotten.

After traveling the entire refugee route for *The Syrian Circle* to learn how to best respond, our research team discovered that people desperately need *encouragement*. By partnering with groups already meeting the physical needs of refugees, our goal is to bring *love* and *hope* to refugees whose current situation seems hopeless.

The letters will be sent with 2-3 select short-term U.S. teams in May and June to support the efforts of independent groups in the Balkans (a few small church ministries, REMAR, and Operation Mercy/Mercy Cafe) that our research team cleared for effective practices with refugees. Letters will be delivered with the guidance of our European partners for what is appropriate for their context.

To submit your letters, mail or email them here:

MAIL YOUR LETTERS:

Overlake Christian Church
ATTN: Giselle Gonzales
9900 Willows Drive
Redmond, WA 98052

OR

EMAIL YOUR LETTERS:

giselle.gonzales7@gmail.com
Subject Line: #NotForgotten

It may seem like a small gesture to you, but these letters could be treasured for years to come. So start writing and follow **The Syrian Circle** on Facebook for updates and to see how *your* letter impacts the life of a refugee!

Need help figuring out what to write?

Here are some of our “do’s and don’ts” for your letters:

DO: Encourage!

- Tell them that they are special, loved, and not forgotten
- Tell them you’re thinking about them and praying for them
- Include an encouraging bible verse/quote that you want to share
- Get creative – recruit your kids to add drawings or paintings to beautify your letter

DON’T: Compare or Judge!

- Don’t write about how good your life is and how bad their life is
- Don’t get political, you’re writing to everyday people, not politicians

Here are some **examples** we recently delivered to refugees at the Greek-Macedonian border:

“Your life is a gift to the world and your value is immeasurable. Know that there are many, many people who are praying for you and who believe in a God of hope who loves you desperately. You are not alone. We are paying attention.”

–Corrine

“God bless you and your family. Keep it in your heart that we are thinking of you and that you are stronger than you think. I believe that you can conquer anything. We are praying for you and you are special.”

–Shannon (5th grader)

What about language?

Almost all refugees have access to Google Translate on their phones or an English speaker who can help, so feel free to write in your native language. However, you are also welcome to send a translation of your letter in Arabic, Farsi, or Pashto (though it’s not necessary).

If you don’t speak any of these languages you can always ask a friend (or Google Translate)!

#NotForgotten

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