



Dear Attorney Colleague:

The Refugee Justice League has been provided your name by a fellow attorney who felt you might be interested participating as a member of the Refugee Justice League. The League has been formed to help defend the rights of those who have found refuge in our state to live peacefully, to maintain their cultural preferences, and to practice their religious devotions openly without restrictions or harassment. The responsibilities of League members are discussed below.

Though at present this effort is only a week old, to date almost 50 attorneys have committed to League membership and to participate in the League's effort to help prevent discrimination against those who have fled persecution and who now reside amongst us.

If, after reviewing the information below, you are willing to participate as a member of the League, please email with a short note expressing your interest to contact@refugeejustice.org and you will be included in the League's initial list of members. If you choose to participate, you will also receive updates concerning the League, its efforts, and opportunities you may have to help.

Why the Refugee Justice League Exists: The Refugee Justice League (League) is a group of attorneys and legal consultants dedicated to promoting and defending the civil, religious, and Constitutional rights of individuals who are discriminated against on the basis of their religious beliefs and national origins. The League was founded on the premise that refugees and immigrants who reside in Utah should be welcomed and treated with dignity. It is the stated purpose of the League to defend their rights to live peacefully, to maintain their cultural preferences, and to

practice their religious devotions openly without restrictions or harassment. At a minimum this is what it means to live in America.

Discrimination And Harassment. Though most of the citizens in Utah are supportive and welcoming, some of those who have been given refuge here have been threatened with removal of their headscarves (hijabs) or other religious apparel accosted with gross profanities; physically threatened; bullied in school; harassed at work by co-workers; menaced by strangers in public places; and have experienced property damage on account of their national origin and religious beliefs.

Assistance For Those Whose Rights Have Been Violated: Abusive behavior is not only wrong, it is often legally actionable. When abuses occur, participating members of the Refugee Justice League will donate their time to assist those refugees who have been victimized to appropriately respond to the discrimination or abuse. Sometimes a simple but frank phone call from a League member to a school principal, a bank or place of employment may be all that is required to resolve the concern. Sometimes a letter from a League member will suffice. But on occasion, more formal action may be required.

Educating New Refugees and Their Neighbors: When requested, League members will meet with and help to educate refugee and immigrant groups with regard to their basic rights to be free from discrimination, to be free from harassment, to freely practice their religious devotions and to exercise their freedom of expression. Similarly, League members will look for opportunities to better educate those in our schools and communities concerning the rights of who seek refuge who we welcome to our state.

Who We Are: The Refugee Justice League is not a partisan or parochial effort. Members of the Refugee Justice League are diverse. They belong to various political parties, are of many faiths, and hold different points of view on many subjects. All of the members, however, are committed to the principal that all in our state, regardless of nationality or religious belief, have the right to live peacefully

amongst us and to enjoy the freedoms guaranteed them by our state and federal constitutions.

MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of League Members include **one or more** of the following:

1. To lend their names in support of the goals and aspirations of the League,
2. To promote the aims and aspirations of the League among their families, friends and colleagues,
3. When appropriate, to meet and counsel with refugees or immigrants who are experiencing a privation of their civil, religious or Constitutional rights,
4. When appropriate, to write letters or make phone calls on behalf of refugees and immigrants who have experienced a privation of their civil, religious or constitutional rights,
5. When appropriate, to assist in the prosecution of civil cases filed on behalf of those who have experienced a curtailment of their civil, religious or constitutional rights.
6. To teach or lecture on the rights of refugees and immigrants,
7. To make presentations in the schools of our state concerning the rights and privileges of those who have been given refuge in our state,
8. To volunteer time to the administrative and operation of the League, and
9. When they feel it appropriate, to donate money for League projects and expenses.

What The League Is Doing Now. Though the League has been only recently organized, it is already working with the Muslim community and others religious communities which have had refugees and immigrants swell their numbers. Within the short future, the League will hold a joint press conference with these communities at which time the Refugee Justice League and will be more broadly introduced to the state community.

Tentatively that press conference is scheduled for November 28th, the first Monday after Thanksgiving.