

29 January 2019

Dear #WithRefugees Coalition members,

I wish to express my appreciation for the vital support you have brought to refugees as members of the #WithRefugees Coalition. Your willingness to go the extra mile in advocating on behalf of refugees and taking initiatives to assist, empower and include them is commendable.

At a time when refugees are often casualties of divisive political agendas, advocacy plays a vital role in helping generate tolerance, understanding and solidarity. Promoting positive narratives and engaging with the public to address anxieties can help foster inclusion and counter xenophobia.

While we continue to remind the world that refugees have left their countries because of conflict and persecution – not by choice – it is also important to show that refugees have much to contribute, given the opportunity. Fostering genuine, evidence-based debates, overcoming misperceptions and tapping into common values can ensure that our impact is all the more powerful.

In welcoming refugees through concrete actions guided by compassion and solidarity, local communities, businesses, faith-based organizations and individuals can help show that keeping our doors open is not only right, but is also beneficial to our societies.

From our side, we will continue to push for stronger measures to protect refugees and to find solutions to their plight. As you may know, towards the end of 2018, we succeeded in our efforts to attain a [Global Compact on Refugees](#), which was carefully developed by UNHCR with United Nations Member States and input from a wide range of stakeholders over the past two years. This landmark text affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly provides a new framework to galvanize global solidarity.

I thank you once again for your important contributions to the refugee cause and take this opportunity to wish you a joyous and peaceful year ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Filippo Grandi