A statement from Matt Reynolds, the Regional Representative for the US and the Caribbean at UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, for your World Refugee Day events this year.

Everyone has the right to seek safety: Whoever they are, wherever they come from, and whenever they are forced to flee.

On World Refugee Day, we honor the courage, strength, and contributions of the millions of people around the world who have been forced to flee their homes due to violence, war, or persecution. It’s a day to remember that with help from welcoming communities and neighbors, people can rebuild their lives and their networks, and even thrive. It’s also a day to remind ourselves there is much more to do.

This World Refugee Day, we commend the efforts of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, your clergy, congregations, and staff, to welcome those forced to flee within our communities. Your organization has shown that you stand with refugees and you are committed to advocating and being a voice for those most vulnerable in our society.

We all share the responsibility to protect people seeking safety and ensure all human beings are treated with dignity and respect. Everyone has the right to asylum. Whoever they are. Wherever they come from. Whenever they need it.

For further World Refugee Day materials, please see the below links:

<https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/world-refugee-day.html>

[https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2022/5/628f85164/seeking-safety-united-states-mexico-bo rder.html](https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2022/5/628f85164/seeking-safety-united-states-mexico-border.html)