



Immigrant & Refugee Resource Collaborative (IRRC)

A place where New Americans are celebrated and believed to be critical to Mid-Michigan's economic and cultural vibrancy.

IRRC Toolbox:

This Toolbox has been created by a collaborative group dedicated to making Mid-Michigan a welcoming home for long term and new residents. For more information please contact the IRRC at irrcmidmichigan@gmail.com. Thank you.

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Background Information and Effective ways to message about refugees and immigrants

These are resources you can use to learn more about the history of the refugee resettlement program, the vetting process, as well as effective messaging that helps long term residents begin to develop a comfort level with newcomers (regardless of whether they are refugees, immigrants, etc.)

[Welcoming America: Reframing Refugees and Stronger Together Tool Kits](#)

[RCUSA Transition document for the New Administration](#): This document also contains information about the history of the refugee resettlement process, past resettlement, vetting and more.

[Security Screening of Refugees Admitted to the US: A Detailed, Rigorous Process](#) Outlines the 14 step process refugees must go through before being admitted to the US.

Immigrant Contributions

[The Contribution of New Americans to Michigan](#) Immigrants of all backgrounds have helped build Michigan and they constitute one of our greatest assets. There is a great deal of research out there to support this claim - this is just one.

Safe Schools Resources

[Teaching Tolerance](#) A project from the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) that acts as a guide for for teachers. Includes great articles and actionable exercises to do with students.

[Newseum ED Resources](#) A resource that helps (teachers specifically) with talking points and discussion materials for students post-election.

[US Department of Education Letter to Schools and Associated Resources \(note 2016 addendum at bottom of letter\)](#)

[Reporting Bullying/Hate in Schools](#) - A reporting mechanism by SPLC Teaching Tolerance Project to help teachers and educators track instances of bullying or hate in schools.

[immigrant and Refugee children: A guide for Educators and School Support Staff](#): This also includes important information on how families can prepare both before and after an ICE raid. Some Spanish translations also included.

[Advancing Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education: Key Data Highlights and Focusing on Race and Ethnicity and Promising Practices](#)

The Linking Communities Project: Resource Page

[Click Here](#) to learn about the benefits of resettlement / immigration, messaging, positive media relations, engaging elected officials and more.

Resources to Help With the Transition to a New Administration

[Transitioning to a New Administration: How we can assist immigrants and refugees](#) USCCB & Justice for Immigrants

[RCUSA Transition document for the New Administration](#): This document contains information about the history of the refugee resettlement process, past resettlement, vetting and more (this link is also listed above)

What to do when witnessing or experiencing offensive behaviors /commentary and how to hold difficult conversations with those with whom we disagree

[A Bystander's guide to standing up against Islamophobic harassment](#): While the scenario outlined here pertains to Islamophobia, the strategy recommended to support victims can apply to anyone on the receiving end of harassment. In addition to the attached, bystanders are also encouraged to report behaviors to bus drivers, store managers, and others in a position of authority.

[Thanksgiving Conversations Could Be Tough, But are More Important than Ever this Year](#): This can be said about any conversation, all year round, with friends and family

[SURJ Thanksgiving Toolkit](#)

[Speak Up: Responding to Everyday Bigotry \(SPLC\)](#)

[Offensive Comments at Work](#)

Know your Rights:

See MSU School of Law Handout in addition to the below

[Know your Rights: Learn How to Protect You and Your Family During Immigration Raids](#)

[Know your Rights: ICE Home Raids and Community Arrests](#). Includes resources in several languages.

Reporting Crimes and Concerning Events

On MSU's Campus: MSU Office of Institutional Equity (OIE). Victims may file a report online at <http://oie.msu.edu>. They can also reach OIE by email at oie@msu.edu or by phone at 517-353-3922. The OIE is located at 4 Olds Hall.

MI Department of Civil Rights: for harassment or intimidation due to ethnicity, race, color or disability call 1-800-482-3604 or visit www.michigan.gov/MDCR and click on "File A Complaint."

Lansing School District: Contact Bilingual Education Department for concerns about English Learners at 755-4892 or sergio.keck@lansingschools.net

If a person believes he/she is a victim of a crime call the police immediately and in the report indicate that you think you were a victimized due to your race, ethnicity, national origin etc.

Find Your Elected Officials and Consider Reaching Out:

In the below links you can find your elected officials, their contact information, and their legislative work to date. It continues to be important to let leaders know your positive feelings and experience with immigrant and refugee families. Phone calls, letters, and other constituent communications are regularly logged in public offices and if our leaders don't hear the good, they are left only to hear the bad.

Consider reaching out as a private citizen - it is your democratic right!

[USA.gov \(official site of US government\)](#)

[Common Cause](#)