

How to Call your Representative

Why Call?

Calling our elected officials is an effective and relatively easy way to ensure that they hear from us *before* they take a public stance. If we don't tell them what is important to us – their constituents – then they will not know our priorities.

If we support their stance on an issue, it is critical for us to let them know, and to thank them when they speak out and take decisive action. They can also use tallies of constituent calls and personal stories we share to better support their positions.

If we oppose or don't know our elected officials' stance on an issue, then calling is the easiest way to have an influence on their positions. And if enough people make calls – then their regular call tally reports will let them know how strongly their constituents feel about an issue.

It is our obligation to hold our elected officials accountable, regardless of their political affiliation and whether or not we voted for them. This is how democracy works!

Action Steps

- First, find the names and phone numbers for your Senators and Representatives here: <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>
- Next, get clear on your asks. HIAS regularly updates our talking points, and you can find them [here](#).
- Make your first call! And then set a reminder for regular calls moving forward. Some people call multiple times a week, focusing on a different aspect of an issue each time. Others call once a week and drive home their concerns about a single issue. HIAS supports you doing any or all of this.
- Finally, let us know about your advocacy. Once you have completed calls and/or meetings, please fill out [this quick form](#) to share details of calls or meetings.

Call Script

Introduce yourself: Hi, my name is _____ and I'm both a constituent of Representative/Senator _____ (and if applicable: part of _____ synagogue in _____). I'd like to speak to someone about....

This is a Jewish Issue: Explain that caring for the refugee, the asylum seeker, the person who needs a safe place to call home is a critical Jewish value, named in the Torah three dozen times. Describe the large support from the Jewish community for refugees, which includes 2,000+ Rabbis and 800+ congregations nationwide.

Don't forget the power of story: Remember to say why you are calling about this issue. If you have been involved in supporting refugee resettlement, or have been working with asylum seekers, have your own immigration story. These stories are powerful and important to share.

Policy Ask: Request that the Representative/Senator cosponsor, support, and push for Congress to
Pass/block

Thanks