

CHARLES E. SCHUMER
NEW YORK

Democratic Leader

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

October 5, 2017

Church World Service
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 700
New York, NY 10115

Dear Friends:

Please accept my warmest greetings and congratulations as members of the Church World Service (CWS) gather to celebrate the annual Benefit4 Change. Unfortunately, I could not be in New York to celebrate with you today, however, I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the exemplary work of CWS, its volunteers, staff and honorees on this auspicious occasion.

For seven decades, CWS has provided critical programs and invaluable support to the newcomers of our great nation. By providing resettlement services and other protections, CWS has improved the quality of life for so many immigrants and refugees across the country who have come to the United States to fulfill the American dream.

Now more than ever, in the wake of un-American executive orders imposed by the president, the work of CWS is imperative. When I think of CWS, I'm reminded of Exodus 22:21, which admonishes us not to "wrong or oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt;" and of Matthew 25: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...I was a stranger and you invited me in." And, I'm reminded of Pope Francis, who asked us in terms crystal clear to, "confront the reality of those who have been displaced by force, with effective projects and new approaches in order to protect their dignity, to improve the quality of their life and to face the challenges that are emerging from modern forms of persecution, oppression and slavery."

I have always said: America is at her best when she is a safe harbor for the oppressed and those determined to build a better life, whoever they are and wherever they come from. As Senate Minority Leader, I promise to continue the fight against the president's executive orders on refugees and immigrants, which only serve to embolden and inspire those around the globe who would do us harm.

Again, thank you to CWS for your hard work, determination and humanitarian spirit in assisting and uplifting the immigrant and refugee population in New York and across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator