

# Because You Care

Your Newsletter—Exclusively for Compassionate Americans Who Care About Refugees

FALL 2020

SPECIAL COVID-19 REPORT

## Winter and the Pandemic Close In

Meet Salma (*more inside, on page 2*).  
She & other Rohingya refugee women  
battle COVID-19 as young volunteers...  
while breaking gender barriers!



## Meet Salma; you'll love her Rohingya grit.

**SALMA LIVES IN A CAMP** that stretches as far as you can see, surrounded by barbed wire. The houses are made of bamboo and woven plant material. The landscape has been stripped bare of trees. But none of that is stopping her and a group of young Rohingya women who have taken over as healthcare volunteers at Kutupalong.

Their mission: to keep their community safe from COVID-19 and a host of other health challenges.

Many of these same young women experienced sexual violence, including gang rape and mutilation by soldiers. On top of that, they are from a culture that has traditionally denied women and girls from having a voice, often leaving them powerless in their communities and in their homes.

That hasn't stopped Salma and her colleagues!

Every day they go door to door, shelter to shelter, helping expecting moms, sick children and the elderly. They distribute personal protective equipment. They identify anyone who might need a health professional's intervention... before it's too late.

"I am good at identifying when people need to come to a clinic," Salma said. "I am their first point of contact, and they trust and respect me... I am bringing my people up. I am helping my community."

Your giving unlocks such incredible power in the people you touch. It's not just a matter of surviving the crisis. Your help combines with their hard work and determination—together, you and Salma, and so many others are transforming life for those in greatest need. Even in this time of pandemic. Thank you for being there for them! ♥



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A volunteer health worker teaches fellow Rohingya refugees about the basics of staying healthy in densely-packed Kutupalong camp, where social distancing is not a realistic option.



## As your witness

From Anne-Marie Grey,  
Executive Director and CEO

## In a camp so big it's seen from space, young Rohingya women take charge

**MY DEAREST WONDERFUL,** caring, compassionate, thoughtful, big-picture, world-loving reader...

I've been to a lot of refugee camps.

And you know—they aren't easy places to be, much less live.

But let me tell you: Kutupalong in Bangladesh is in a class by itself. Kutupalong is the biggest refugee camp in the world. And that means crowded, almost beyond belief. It really walloped me.

The Rohingya are "stateless"—No country in the world recognizes them as citizens.

**But you do!**

**Thank you for being there** for all the Rohingya women!

Gratefully,

*Anne-Marie Grey*

Anne-Marie Grey



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## Winter comes... plus the pandemic. Cash-strapped Syrian refugees scramble to keep their kids warm and healthy.

**The 2020 pandemic lockdown made work for refugees impossible. Your kindness means more than ever.**

**WINTER IS COMING.** And for these Syrian refugees, that's cold news indeed.

Iman was eight months pregnant with her first child when bombs began falling on her hometown. She and her husband Hassan saw no choice. It was get away or die. They grabbed a ride on an escaping truck, to begin a terrifying journey to Jordan.

They're still there. For good reason: men who return to Syria risk arrest and interrogation, despite government promises. The family lives in a run-down building in one of the poorest parts of Amman, Jordan's capital.

"Our place is leaking and moldy. We get very cold," Iman says, anticipating yet another winter. Gas canisters run their sole heater. But those canisters are expensive. And Hassan has trouble finding any work, because of the pandemic.

When coronavirus threatened, Jordan quickly instituted some of the strictest lockdown measures anywhere, making the country a health success but an economic disaster.

Iman and Hassan have very little money. "We run the heater in the mornings and evenings before we sleep to stay warm."

◀ Iman was heavily pregnant when she and her husband made their "terrifying" escape from Syria. Thanks to you the family is safe.

## It's Americans like you...

...especially in hard times. It's Americans like YOU who demonstrate the true spirit of American generosity—you are there.

As little Bissan, the baby born soon after they escaped, approaches school age, Iman and Hassan are so eager that she get started—despite the difficulties.

"Education is the best thing," Iman says. She, like you, knows that education, hard work, and people caring for one another are how you build a better life. Even in the most difficult of times.

Thank you for your kindness. Some may turn their backs on refugees. But your compassion toward people like Iman and Hassan makes the world a more hopeful place. ♥



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"Bundle up, children: heat's expensive." Hassan wrestles a precious gas canister into place. Paid work has evaporated since the coronavirus lockdown in Jordan.

# Why I Donate

**Americans reach out to refugees around the world with love and hope.**

*“Because we are one human family and when one suffers, we all suffer.”*

JUDITH C., DAPHNE, AL

*“I... help my fellow members of the human family [because they] are undergoing extremely difficult and painful circumstances that have forced them to leave behind all they know and love.”*

JULIO Q.,  
DES PLAINES, IL

**Thank you for what you do right now... for refugees—hurting people who need a hand! ♥**



Rohingya mom and baby.

© UNHCR / VINCENT TREMEAU

## Will you call, please?

**We really do love hearing from you!**

Because we want to know: Why do you care so much about refugees? And we really want to know: Did we get something wrong?

**Call our very own Donor Care team at:  
202-792-1164**

**Or email us at:  
info@usaforunhcr.org**

**You already do so much for refugees!  
But you wonder, “could I do even more?”**

## If you have a Will... there's a way.

**Join our special Nansen Society.**

You have 3 options to consider:

- Add a charitable gift **of any size** to your Will... then please let us know so we can thank you!
- Generously **designate** USA for UNHCR as “a” (not necessarily “the only”) beneficiary of your IRA, life insurance policy, donor advised fund, etc... then please let us know so we can thank you.
- Guarantee yourself (and your partner) a **fixed income for life**, by creating a charitable trust or annuity... through USA for UNHCR. (Experts standing by... to walk you through the process.)



**To discuss all these options**, simply contact the delightful **David Hall** at **(202) 293-0434**

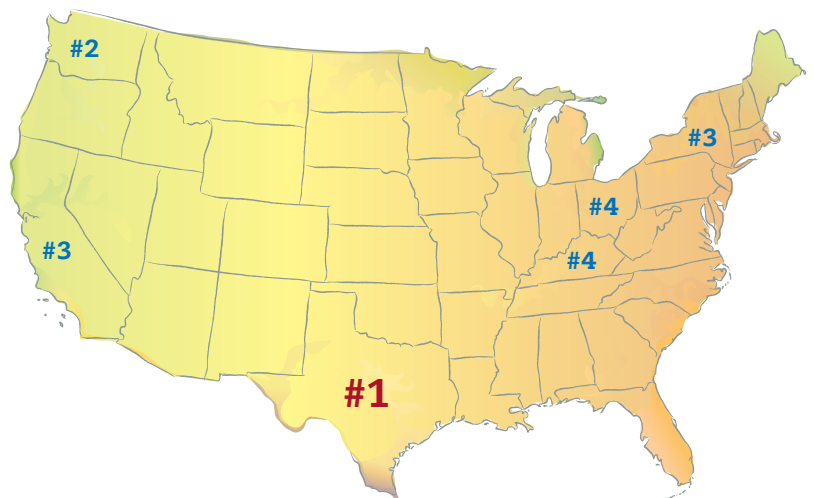
Or email him: [plannedgiving@usaforunhcr.org](mailto:plannedgiving@usaforunhcr.org)

**PICTURED ABOVE** Dr. Fridtjef Nansen—humanitarian, scientist, Arctic explorer—received the 1922 Nobel Peace Prize for resettling countless displaced victims after WWI. We chose to name our “legacy society” after him. PHOTO: CHRISTIAN GIBBSON, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NORWAY



**Did you ever wonder?**

**Which state resettles the largest number of U.S. government vetted refugees?**



Texas leads the nation in refugee resettlement, followed by Washington in second place, California and New York in third, and Ohio and Kentucky in fourth place.

Source: Pew Research Center