



Are you an advocate for refugees?

After a recent meeting of the [Tennessee Refugee Advisory Collaborative](#), TOR created a Google group for refugee advocacy and strategy. We hope that those working with or for refugees will share winning strategies and brainstorm problems together. You can [email Maegen](#) or go to the [group page](#) to join. *Please include a brief description of your work with or for refugees.*

Tennessee Office for Refugees to host annual training event

Every year, our agency hosts a training event for our partners. This year that event, on Sept 14-15, will focus on



TNRefugees.org is Live!

We have been talking about and working on rolling out a new website for a **long** time. Please go visit it! We hope that for partners, friends, stakeholders, and questioners, this site will be an easy to navigate resource.

We've leveled up as well- we added a [blog](#)! Please check it out!



Join us for the screening of two short documentaries and a panel discussion.

Welcoming Week is September 15 -24, 2017.

On **Thursday, 9/14** TOR will host a screening of Hotel USA and 4.1 Miles. After the screenings, we will facilitate a discussion with a panel of refugees and the people who work with them.

Hotel USA, directed by Andrea Meller and Marisa Pearl, captures a group of newcomers during their first moments in the country, exploring the sense of loss and hope that

data and program monitoring and evaluation. Our partners have a lot of data and are incredibly busy doing the work that provides that data. We recognize that it can be difficult to step back, look at the data, and evaluate needs and successes. We hope we can help make that process easier.



Keep in touch! [Follow TOR on Facebook!](#)

For comments or suggestions regarding the e-newsletter, please email Maegen Hughes, Communications and Grants Specialist: mhughes@cctenn.org.



pervades the refugee experience. This film is included among the The New York Times Op-Docs.

In the Oscar®-nominated short film **4.1 Miles**, Daphne Matziaraki follows a day in the life of Kyriakos Papadopoulos, a captain in the Greek coast guard who is caught in the middle of the refugee crisis in which Europe is

embroiled. Despite limited resources, the captain and his crew attempt to save thousands of migrants from drowning in the Aegean Sea. *Nominated, 2017 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject*. This event is a collaboration with POV, the award-winning independent non-fiction film series on PBS www.pbs.org/pov

Thursday, September 14th, 2016
6pm at the Catholic Pastoral Center
2800 McGavock Pk, Nashville 37214

RSVP through the [Facebook event!](#)

Lawsuit Updates

Hopefully you are aware that the Tennessee General Assembly is suing the federal government over refugee resettlement, claiming that resettling refugees in Tennessee forces the State to bear an undue financial burden, a 10th amendment claim.



Here is an update on what's happened with this case in the last few months:

The case was filed on **March 13** and the federal Government (the Defendant) filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit on **June 1**. They claim that the case is outside the court's jurisdiction and that Tennessee law does not allow the General Assembly to bring a lawsuit on behalf of the State.

On **June 2**, several other agencies in Tennessee filed a motion requesting that they be allowed to intervene on behalf of the the Defendant (the Government). These agencies include Bridge Refugee Services, Inc, Nashville International Center for Empowerment, and Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition. They argue that they have a significant stake in the outcome of this case and that the Government (the Defendant) might not adequately defend this case.

On **June 23** the Government (the Defendant) asked the court to dismiss the motion to intervene. They claim that the agencies did not establish that the Government (the Defendant) would not adequately represent their interests.

On **July 14**, the State (the Plaintiff) responded to the motion to dismiss the case reiterating the claim that resettlement "unconstitutionally commandeered[s] State funds."

On **August 18th** the Government (the Defendant) submitted a memorandum in support of their motion to dismiss. In this document, they present several arguments as to why the case should be dismissed,

among them that the State (the Plaintiff) does not have standing to assert their claim (i.e. the legislature is not authorized to sue the Federal Government), that the claim is not “ripe for review” (i.e. the basis of the claim is based on hypotheticals and therefore should not be considered by the court), and that the State's (the Plaintiff) argument is contrary to law. The document points out that the Constitution does not give the state the right to consent to admitting aliens. It also points out that the Constitution requires the state “to make public benefits such as Medicaid available to lawfully present aliens on the same terms as they are provided to citizens.”

So, that's where we are now. We don't know when the case may actually be heard in court, but we will keep you posted!

You can find some of the documents [here](#).



Tennessee Office for Refugees

2806 McGavock Pike, Nashville TN 37214

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