

## **Safety Tips During Election Season**

*National elections for the president in the United States happen every 4 years, on the first Tuesday of November. During this time, people may have more interest in refugees and resettlement agencies. Below are some safety tips and guidance for situations you may encounter in the U.S. If you have questions, talk to your resettlement agency.*

- If a person wants to interview you, you have the right to say no. If a person wants to take a video or photo of you, you have the right to say no. You can say things like “don’t take my picture” or “leave me alone.” You can also cover your face with your arm. Don’t run and don’t try to fight this person, but ignore them and walk away. If you feel unsafe, call for help.
- If someone calls you on the phone to threaten you, do not respond. Write down the phone number, what the person said, if they were male or female, background noise and any other details. Then end the phone call. Talk to your case manager about the call and show them your notes. They will help you report the phone call to law enforcement.
- If someone harasses you through texts or social media, do not respond. Keep record of texts or online messages. Talk to your case manager about how to report those messages to the authorities.
- Do not share personal information with anyone you don’t know. If someone calls you on the phone or emails you to ask for information like your social security number, date of birth, or bank account number, do not give them this information! If the person says you will get deported or go to jail if you don’t give them the information, this is a scam (trick)! If you’re not sure about something, talk to your case manager before taking action.
- Make sure your phone, email address, and all online accounts (like bank accounts) have good passwords.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Don’t walk alone at night and try to walk in pairs or groups. If you see something or someone suspicious around you, tell someone. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.
- At home, remember to lock exterior doors and windows. Don’t allow strangers into your home. Put curtains in your windows and close your blinds at night. If you drive, make sure to lock your car doors and windows.
- Try to vary your schedules and routines. If you like to go for a walk in your neighborhood, try to go at different times and days.

*With thanks to the Resettlement Safety and Security Forum*