

MERCY SHIPS FOR CHILDREN

National Headquarters

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S COMMITTEE
TO RELEASE SHIPS FOR EUROPEAN CHILDREN

MURRAY HILL HOTEL • NEW YORK CITY

41st St. & Park Avenue

July 18, 1940

Telephone
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To All Women's Organizations:

We are asking for your cooperation along the lines suggested in our enclosed advertisement in the New York TIMES.

Two of the four steps that had to be taken before children could be rescued from the war zone have already been taken, namely: first, British parents have registered over 200,000 of their children and want to send them here; second, the U.S. has opened the doors as regards issuing visitors' visas and not insisting on the limited immigration quotas (this new U.S. ruling was announced last Sunday).

Two tasks remain: first, to make it possible to send mercy ships for the children; and second, to dramatize to the English that our hearts and homes are not limited to a few thousand specially privileged children but are open to rich and poor alike and to all who come. (The Gallup survey reports five to seven million U.S. homes willing to welcome a war-zone child. We must test this estimate).

Prime Minister Churchill, speaking to Parliament yesterday as much as said that all hope of sending an adequate number of children to America now depends entirely upon our willingness to send mercy ships for them.

If you and your organization believe these children should be rescued, we suggest that you do the following things at the earliest moment:

1. Pass a resolution directed to President Roosevelt asking that mercy ships be sent. Mail a copy of this resolution to us here.))
2. Post this letter on your bulletin board. Invite your members to write personal letters directly to President Roosevelt asking that mercy ships be sent.
3. Place a petition so your members may sign it. Type on a sheet of paper, "The undersigned earnestly petition President Roosevelt and the United States Government to do everything possible to expedite the sending of mercy ships to rescue children from the war zone". Have members sign these sheets and mail them to President Roosevelt.]

We hope you will help and would welcome an acknowledgment.

Sincerely yours, .

Hetty Richard
for the Organizing Group