



Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees

Refugees Policy Advocacy 2020

Refugees Admission and National Security

1. Consistent with national security, re-establish and expedite substantial numbers of Syrian refugee arrivals

- Urge at least 95,000 refugee admissions in FY 2021 including at least 10,000 Syrians.
- Provide a supplemental \$642 million for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in FY2021 through the Refugee and Entrant Assistance account to ensure vulnerable populations like refugees don't fall through the cracks and can receive housing, food, and the care they need to successfully integrate into American life.
- Ensure Administration accountability for minimum Presidential Determination levels and cease to ratchet numbers downwards in an effort to zero out all refugee resettlement in the U.S.
- Appropriate minimally sufficient FY 2021 funds for Department of State and USCIS resettlement processes and for USAID emergency assistance programs, particularly to internally displaced persons.
- Ask President Trump to work with our NATO ally, Turkey and the international community to enforce the de facto safe zone in opposition-held portions of northwestern Syria to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and attacks by pro-regime forces.
- Support US enforcement of the Caesar Syrian Civilian Protection Act (HR 31/S 52) that imposes sanctions on individuals and institutions that military support the Assad regime, and provides accountability against Syrian government officials and others who have committed war crimes, acts of atrocity and crimes against humanity.
- Support Congress providing FY 2021 funding for stabilization activities in non-Assad held regions in Syria, and ask President Trump to unfreeze \$200 million in stabilization aid for Syria.
- Support H.Res. 395, which condemns attacks on hospitals and emergency and medical personnel by Syrian and Russian forces.
- Support H.R. 1707, the No Assistance for Assad Act which formalizes the US long-held position of not supporting the Assad regime.
- Support H.Res. 902 and S.Res. 545 celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Refugee Act of 1980.



- Restore and rebuild the US refugee resettlement program by cosponsoring the GRACE Act (S.1088/H.R.2146) that would re-establish the resettlement program to the historic average of 95,000 and hold the Administration accountable to operating the refugee resettlement program in good faith.
- Support H.R.4092 that seek to increase US funding to protect women and girls during and after humanitarian emergencies.
- Sponsor/support any and all legislation that would extend and re-designate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Syrians.
- Urge the Administration to rescind four hostile Executive Orders (EOs) consistent with statutory requirements and internal protocols to which US is signatory.
- Refuse to appropriate any funds for those EOs implementation.
- Insist on technology improvements to expedite refugee vetting, and assist in inter-agency coordination.

2. Resettlement and Refugee Integration

Appropriate necessary funding to expedite and improve refugee integration.

- Reject any proposal that denies protection to people based on arbitrary evaluations through a “merit” or points-based immigration system.
- Oppose any initiatives that afford governors and/or state legislatures authority to refuse Syrian refugee or other refugee resettlement or any legislative initiative that would negatively affect resettlement.
- Revitalize private sponsorships to increase numbers of refugees being resettled.
- Ensure unemployment and paid sick leave be extended to refugees and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, who have arrived recently and thus may not have the work history to make them eligible for either.
- Require the Administration to properly staff both U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (ISCIS) Refugee Corps and the Asylum Division using funds already allocated to address any backlogs so that these are not an alleged impediment to refugee resettlement.