Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees
Policy Advocacy 2018

1. **Refugee Admissions and National Security**
   Consistent with national security, expedite increased numbers of Syrian refugee arrivals:
   
   - **Urge** at least 75,000 admissions in FY 19, including at least 10,000 Syrians
   - **Ensure** Administration accountability for minimum Presidential Determination levels
   - **Appropriate** minimally-sufficient FY 19 funds for Department of State\(^1\) and USCIS resettlement processes, and for USAID\(^2\) emergency assistance programs, particularly to internally displaced persons (IDPs)
   - **Resist** further appropriations cuts that weaken United States Resettlement Program
   - **Sponsor/support** any and all legislation that would extend and re-designate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Syria, including S.2144, **SECURE**, “Safe Environment from Countries Under Repression and Emergency” Act
   - **Sponsor/support** any and all legislation affirming importance of refugee resettlement and/or assistance for IDPs and opposing discrimination, overt or practical, on basis of religion, nationality, or any protected class
   - **Oppose RAISE**, “Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment” Act, which would permanently cap annual refugee admissions at 50,000 and impose “merit-based” immigration standards, and any legislation that would constrain resettlement
   - **Urge** the Administration to **rescind** four hostile Executive Orders (EOs), consistent with statutory requirements and international protocols to which US is signatory
   - **Refuse** to appropriate any funds for EO implementation
   - **Insist** on technology improvements to expedite vetting, assist inter-agency coordination

2. **Resettlement and Refugee Integration**
   Appropriate necessary funding to expedite and improve refugee integration:
   
   - **Oppose** the move of the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) from DoS to DHS and any consolidation of USAID and PRM humanitarian relief roles
   - **Appropriate** FY 19 funds for Department of Health and Human Service’s Office of Refugee Resettlement\(^3\)
   - **Oppose** imposition of Administration’s restrictive “assimilation” requirements
   - **Oppose** any legislation that would seek to afford Governors and/or state legislatures authority to refuse Syrian refugee resettlement or any other legislation that would negatively affect resettlement
   - **Revitalize** private sponsorships to increase the numbers of refugees being resettled

3. **Public Message**
   Keep support for Syrian war victims in front of the public as a top priority:
   
   - **Dispel** the three great fears driving anti-Syrian refugee policy: economic harm; terrorism; Islamophobia
   - **Refute** anti-refugee misinformation, xenophobia, and Islamophobia
   - **Counter** anti-Muslim/terrorist threat language

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\(^1\) For DoS’ Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account: $3.604 billion
\(^2\) For DoS’ Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance account (ERMA): $50 million
\(^3\) For USAID’s International Disaster Assistance account (IDA): $4.4 billion
For DHHS’ Refugee and Entrant Assistance account (REA): at least $1.9 billion