



Congressional Asks

In honor of World Refugee Day 2020, we call on Members of Congress to welcome and protect the most vulnerable among us by supporting the following efforts:

1. In the next COVID-19 stimulus package:

- a. **Issue COVID-19 stimulus checks to taxpayers using tax identification numbers.** The CARES Act has barred 5 million U.S citizens from receiving much needed stimulus check. This is discriminatory and all who file taxes and are eligible especially the most vulnerable must be supported.
- b. **Extend security check and immigrant visa validity periods, processing deadlines and the automatic extension of work authorization** so that refugees and Special Immigrant Visa holders are not harmed by COVID-19 disruptions to applications, renewal, and processing.

2. Urge the President to welcome at least 95,000 refugees in fiscal year 2021. The current Presidential Determination has been set to the historically low number of 18,000 refugees for fiscal year 2020. Due to the pandemic most refugee resettlement has been paused. Next year we must restore refugee admissions to both accommodate the refugees who were unable to travel this year as well as rebuild the refugee admissions program in the country.

3. Work with the Administration to ensure unaccompanied refugee minors are able to travel immediately. America must support the most vulnerable. We understand that the administration has paused refugee resettlement due to the pandemic. However, even during a pandemic, exceptions can be made and we urge you to work with the administration to ensure unaccompanied refugee minors are not left in harm's way and able to travel immediately.

4. Exercise Congressional powers of oversight and investigate the treatment of children being expelled at the border. The administration has closed the border to unaccompanied children since March 21st and has been rapidly expelling them back to the dangers that they fled. This is unconscionable and violates the protections that are enshrined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). We ask that congress exercise their powers of oversight and investigate the treatment of children being expelled at the border.