

Advocacy Alert! Protect the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program

Over the last 40 years, the U.S. has set a goal of resettling an average of 95,000 refugees annually. Over the last two years, this goal has been slashed to 45,000 and 30,000 people. Now, <u>some White House advisers are recommending</u> that the presidential determination for refugee resettlement in FY20 be set at zero, effectively shutting down the resettlement program.

While this is not a final decision, we are deeply concerned with the impact this would have on refugee families and children. Ask the White House to support the resettlement of refugee children and families.

Take action:

Call the White House Switchboard at (202) 456-1111. Ask them to maintain the annual refugee admission goals to reflect the ongoing humanitarian crisis and share why this is important to you. Or send an e-mail to https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/.

Sample script:

I wish to express my support for refugees and our nation's refugee resettlement institutions that provide help and acceptance for all those who have suffered from war, trafficking, slavery and terrorism.

Today there are over 25 million refugees (half of whom are children) who are seeking safety across the globe. I respectfully request that you do not recommend lowering or zeroing out refugees resettlement numbers in FY 2020.

Lowering refugee admissions even further would have devastating results for highly vulnerable refugees including children, people with urgent medical needs, torture victims and persecuted religious minorities.

We ask that you view the ongoing refugee and immigration crisis through the eyes of those seeking refuge from persecution. Our nation's policies should reflect our strong commitment to helping refugees while maintaining and increasing our current refugee resettlement and admission goals.