

THE REFUGEE PROTECTION ACT OF 2019

The world is experiencing the worst refugee crisis in recorded history. Over 25 million refugees have been forcibly displaced from their homes by the horrors of civil conflict, persecution, and even genocide. Nearly half of these refugees are children. At the same time, thousands of families are fleeing endemic gang violence and chaos in the Northern Triangle, seeking asylum at our southern border. In the face of such staggering human suffering, the United States should be redoubling its efforts to protect refugees and asylum seekers as the humanitarian leader of the world. But shamefully, the Trump administration has instead strangled our refugee admissions pipeline and slammed our doors on asylum seekers.

The Refugee Protection Act (RPA) of 2019 is a comprehensive blueprint for restoring and reinvigorating our refugee and asylum systems. The RPA of 2019 builds upon the [Refugee Protection Act of 2016](#), and includes several critical updates in response to the Trump administration's attacks on our identity as a welcoming refuge for the persecuted.

Bolsters U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) & Expands Protections for Refugees:

- Requires the President to set an annual refugee admission goal of at least 95,000 – the historic average under all administrations since the creation of USRAP.
- Strengthens congressional consultation and reporting requirements to ensure more robust oversight over the President's decisions with respect to USRAP.
- Establishes a program to admit certain refugees of special humanitarian concern from Northern Triangle countries.
- Provides arriving refugees lawful permanent resident status.

Restores Due Process and Dignity for Asylum Seekers:

- Establishes a presumption of release from detention for asylum seekers who pose no public safety risk and prohibits criminal prosecution of asylum seekers.
- Makes domestic violence and gang-related violence asylum claims more viable by reversing the Trump administration's *Matter of A-B-* decision.
- Allows asylum seekers to reopen their claims if they were barred or lost because of the Trump administration's asylum bans or Migration Protection Protocols (MPP).
- Requires the Attorney General to appoint counsel for immigrant children and particularly vulnerable individuals, and expands access to counsel and legal orientation programs to all detained immigrants.

Expands Protections for Immigrants Cooperating with Law Enforcement & Foreign Nationals Assisting U.S. Troops:

- Expands the number of U visas for crime victims who are cooperating with law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of crimes.
- Improves processing times for refugee and Special Immigrant Visa applications from Iraqi and Afghan partners who assisted U.S. troops in combat zones.
- Establishes a new category of refugees of special humanitarian concern for Syrian Kurdish allies and other Syrians in imminent danger following U.S. troop withdrawal from Syria.
- Establishes new Special Immigrant Visa program for Syrians who worked as employees of U.S. government in Syria.