In September 2019, the administration announced two drastic shifts for FY2020’s Presidential Determination (PD) for refugees: the admissions goals have been shrunk to an all time low of 18,000 and the categories used to admit refugees have been fundamentally restructured. Now, instead of refugees being admitted based on their region of origin, they are to be admitted based on four new categories:

- Refugees who faced religious persecution
- Iraqis who had assisted US missions abroad
- Refugees who were from, or were habitual residents of the "Northern Triangle" - El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras
- All others

Who are "Iraqi P-2s"?
The US has maintained a consistent military presence in Iraq - whether with combat troops or as military advisers - since 2003. War, persecution, and violence are the largest drivers of forcible displacement, and by the end of 2018, Iraq had 283,022 refugees, 14,016 asylum seekers, and 1,802,832 internally displaced persons.* Some Iraqis risked their and their families’ lives by assisting these recent US missions. In response to this crisis, the US has sought to create new pathways to protect those whose lives came under threat through their direct relationships with the US. One pathway has been the designation of this group Iraqi refugees as "Priority 2" (P-2) for the US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). USRAP admits refugees under three priority categories: Priority 1 are those who have been referred by UNHCR, a US embassy, or other designated nongovernmental group; Priority 2 are those who the US has deemed a special humanitarian concern and they are able to apply for resettlement directly through USRAP; Priority 3 are those who are seeking to be reunited with family members who have already been resettled. There are thousands of Iraqis who qualify for P-2 resettlement; however, the administration will not facilitate their applications. Despite the numbers of those who are in need of resettlement and would qualify for P-2 consideration, the US is far away from being able to resettle its goal of 4,000. By the end of Q1, the US should have brought 999 Iraqi P-2s, instead we have welcomed only 23 - or 2% of the needed goal to stay on track. In the meantime, families remain separated and under threat.