

Refugee, Asylum, and Humanitarian Policy Priorities (June 2026)

- 1. Protect refugees, asylum seekers, and other newcomers in the United States from indiscriminate arrests, detention, de-documentation, and deportations.**
 - **Strongly oppose and support oversight over any operation carrying out the [unlawful](#) indiscriminate arrests, detention, and “re-vetting” of refugees across the United States.** [Litigation](#) currently blocks the administration from its stated policy of arresting and detaining refugees without green cards. However, the administration continues to pursue efforts to inspect, “re-vet,” and terminate the status of resettled refugees.
 - **Demand the administration end the arrests, detention, and improper removal of asylum applicants, individuals with [Temporary Protected Status \(TPS\)](#), or parolees – including to dangerous third countries.** As a result, asylum seekers - including families, [pregnant and nursing mothers](#), and [children](#) - are being arbitrarily arrested, subjected to [family separation, and detained](#) while being stripped of key due process protections as punishment for seeking asylum. Many have been transferred to [dangerous third countries](#) where they have no ties, including under corrupt so-called “[asylum cooperative agreements](#)” (ACAs). At the same time, the administration has [politicized the immigration courts](#) by firing experienced immigration judges and replacing them with anti-immigrant zealots, [gutting the Board of Immigration Appeals](#), attacking protections for [families](#) and victims of [gender-based violence](#), denying asylum claims [without conducting hearings](#), and [eviscerating the appeals process](#). We have also seen repeated attempts to strip [TPS holders](#) and [parolees](#) of their protections (despite court intervention), making them vulnerable to detention and removal. The result is the unlawful deportation of vulnerable people to nations where their lives and freedom are at risk.
 - **Call for immediately resuming the processing of applications for refugee green cards, affirmative asylum, work permits, and other halted immigration benefits.** Last year, USCIS placed an adjudicative hold on a series of immigration applications and benefits for refugees, asylees, asylum seekers, and individuals from countries on the expanded travel ban, which includes [8 of the world’s top 10](#) refugee-producing states and targets people from 40 primarily Black- and Muslim-majority countries. USCIS has collected over \$1 billion in fees across these applications, which remain halted. While the hold is in place, the administration has then targeted refugees and others who are *not* green card holders for “re-interviews” and potential enforcement. At the same time, asylum seekers are burdened with heavy H.R.1 fees, and the administration is also proposing to completely [cut off access to work permits](#) for those with pending asylum applications, destroying their ability to support themselves and provide for their families. Congress should demand an expansion of access to counsel in asylum proceedings, immigration court, and [detention facilities](#) – as well as the [DOJ Recognition and Accreditation \(R&A\) program](#).
 - **Maintain and safeguard** funding for local communities’ capacity to ensure the long-term integration and economic success of new Americans through the **Refugee and Entrant Assistance (REA)** account, administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), for job training, English language classes, and medical and mental health services.
 - **Reduce funding and reliance on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP)** enforcement operations and rein in their unprecedented and repeated violations of legal obligations and abuses. Condemn the excessive brutality and neglect conducted by ICE and CBP agents – in and outside of custody – with one such instance resulting in the death of Nurul Amin Shah Alam, a former refugee and blind Rohingya genocide survivor in Buffalo, New York. Prohibit immigration enforcement at “sensitive locations,” or otherwise ensure no funding is used to engage in any enforcement action that takes place at, is focused on, or occurs within 1,000 feet of a sensitive location as defined in the *Sensitive Locations Act* (H.R.1061/S.455).

2. **Strongly pressure the administration to restore and invest in humanitarian pathways, including the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for the most at-risk refugees; the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program; access to asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border; and TPS and humanitarian parole.**
 - Call for the **full resumption of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program, resume family reunification pathways, and terminate the racist and discriminatory travel bans.** Ensure the United States **resettles the most at-risk refugees** — regardless of where they come from, the color of their skin, or what faith they practice. President Trump signed the refugee ban [executive order](#), indefinitely suspending the U.S. resettlement program, on January 20, 2025 and the [travel ban](#) and [expanded travel ban](#) on June 4, 2025 and December 16, 2025 (respectively). These executive orders are still in effect.
 - **Demand the full restoration of access to asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border.** While asylum access remains [suspended](#), a [court ruling](#) now requires the administration to allow access to the two [lesser forms of protection](#) of withholding of removal or protection under the Convention Against Torture. Congress requires that people who arrive at the border, including those with orders of removal or criminal convictions, be provided with a meaningful opportunity to claim fear before their removal. If an IJ or AO determines a person is at significant risk of persecution or torture, [DHS cannot deport them](#). DHS consistently fails to conduct legally-required fear screenings.
 - **Demand the [cancellation](#) of [TPS rescissions](#); extend and [redesignate TPS](#) for all countries designated as of January 20, 2025; restore all [parole processes](#), and resume accepting and approving re-parole applications.** With the House passage of [H.R.1689](#) to extend Haiti TPS through January 20, 2029, urge the Senate to pass the bill and call on Congress to push for the President's signature. House offices should support the discharge petition for [H.R.3310](#) to designate Venezuela for TPS.
 - Lift up the core principles of the *Refugee Act of 1980* that established the **nondiscriminatory framework** to respond to the humanitarian need of forcibly displaced individuals. When the refugee ban took effect, the United States left in limbo more than 120,000 individuals who already went through years of vetting and interviews and had been approved by DHS at that time, including: [Sudanese](#) and [Somalis](#) fleeing war, those forcibly displaced due to the conflict in Iran, Afghans who assisted the U.S. mission, among others. Although the refugee ban executive order permits refugee admissions on a case-by-case basis, in FY26, 95% of USRAP arrivals have been Afrikaners.
 - **Maintain and safeguard** funding for the U.S. overseas humanitarian response and resettlement infrastructure to assist refugees and forcibly displaced people abroad, including the **International Humanitarian Assistance (IHA)** account and the **Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA)** account to enable U.S. crisis response.
3. **Champion positive and proactive oversight initiatives, legislation, and policies that reject indiscriminate attacks on nonprofits' 501(c)(3) status and support refugee, asylum, TPS, parole, and humanitarian protections.**
 - Restore long-standing, historical eligibility for refugees and asylees (before receiving green cards) and humanitarian populations for basic needs assistance, especially cuts made by H.R.1 to SNAP, Medicare, and Medicaid, so that new arrivals have access to affordable groceries and medical care.
 - Endorse or support (re)introduction of **important legislation** that restores and strengthens the refugee resettlement program, the right to seek asylum, access to work authorization, [access to education](#), [workforce development](#), and local communities' capacity to provide post-arrival integration assistance, including the [Refugee Protection Act](#), [NO BAN Act](#), [Afghan Adjustment Act](#), [GRACE Act](#), [Community-Based Refugee Reception Act](#), [Stateless Protection Act](#), [Climate Displaced Persons Act](#), [Real Courts, Rule of Law Act](#), [MELT ICE Act](#), and the [Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act](#).