

Urge Congress to Protect Children Seeking Asylum in United States



As we seek to protect our public health during the coronavirus pandemic, we must also protect the lives of vulnerable children seeking asylum in the United States. Right now, unaccompanied children are being forced back to Mexico or to their countries of origin without being able to apply for asylum. Right now, children are being held in overcrowded detention centers where coronavirus is already spreading.

While the administration should be ensuring that public health is protected in response to the coronavirus pandemic, keeping unaccompanied minors from seeking asylum will do little to protect anyone. Please call on the administration to follow policies that will ensure that we balance our responsibilities to protect public health along with our obligation to protect vulnerable populations seeking asylum. Specifically, the administration should:

- Stop the deportation of unaccompanied minors without due process. Following an appropriate health screening, minors should be allowed to remain in safety while awaiting their asylum hearings.
- Use proven alternatives to avoid detention for vulnerable populations, including children and pregnant women, where the risk of a coronavirus outbreak is high. This includes safe and appropriate care through humanitarian parole, placement with a sponsor, or family case management.

This crisis will be over in time, and when we look back on our response as a nation we should have a sense of pride that we did not allow the emergency to end our commitment to protecting the most vulnerable among us.

We can keep the American public safe without putting the lives of children at risk.

Send a message to your [Senators](#) and [members of the House](#) and to the [Trump administration](#) today urging them to follow US and international law and keep unaccompanied children safe.