

Ensure that Refugees Are Protected



On June 20, World Refugee Day, we celebrate the strength, courage, and resilience of refugees. Today, an unprecedented 68.5 million people around the world have been forced from their homes. Among them are nearly 25.4 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.

The COVID-19 global pandemic and its devastating impact on the economy puts these already vulnerable communities at even greater risk. Many refugees are essential workers on the frontlines of the pandemic response, including in the healthcare field, as truck drivers critical to the supply chain, and as grocery store employees. Many more are facing dire and immediate economic challenges during this unprecedented public health crisis. [These stories](#) from Church World Service are illustrative of refugees' current needs. Many of these families will fall through the cracks without meaningful congressional intervention.

As we mark the 40th anniversary of the *U.S. Refugee Act of 1980*, bipartisan legislation that created our modern day refugee resettlement and asylum systems, it is critical that the United States regain its leadership position by providing lifesaving development and humanitarian assistance to help meet the basic needs of refugees and vulnerable migrants. It is equally important that the United States restore its own refugee and asylum programs to their historic levels. Traditionally, refugee resettlement has enjoyed bipartisan support; today that support is threatened.

Join US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking in calling on Congress to protect refugees by ensuring that their needs are included in the next COVID-19 relief package. To learn more and to send a message to your U.S. Senators, click [here](#).