

TOOLKIT: March 10th National #Faith4Asylum Call-in Day

Tell Congress: Welcome Asylum Seekers and Restore Lifesaving Asylum Protections

The U.S. asylum system is under attack. The Trump administration has blocked families and children seeking protection and is instead delivering them to danger – through the administration’s cruel “Remain in Mexico” (or Migration Protection Protocol/MPP) policy that unlawfully returns asylum seekers to Mexico while their case is adjudicated; programs like PACR and HARP to fast-track asylum adjudications that are a wholly inadequate and unlawful substitute for a fair and meaningful asylum process; turning away asylum seekers at the border; “metering” entry and forcing asylum seekers to wait months to even apply for protection; returning asylum seekers to unsafe countries in Central America; and categorically denying asylum to those traveling through another country in order to get to safety here.

All people have the legal right to seek a safe place to call home, and requesting asylum is a protected right within U.S. and international law. We must demand that our Members of Congress rein in the Trump administration, defend our values, stop funding policies that destroy the asylum system. Right now, Congress is considering federal funding for FY 2021. **It is critical that all Members of Congress hear loud and clear that their constituents want to see them stop funding anti-asylum policies and restore the U.S. asylum system.** Here are the three ways to take action:

1. Call Your Members of Congress

[Click here](#) to receive a call that connects you to your 2 Senators and 1 Representative

Here’s a sample script: “I’m your constituent from [CITY/TOWN]. As you consider federal funding for fiscal year 2021, [as a person of faith] I urge you to stop funding the administration’s inhumane and cruel policies that are dismantling the asylum system, and instead restore and strengthen it by co-sponsoring the *Refugee Protection Act* (H.R.5210 / S.2936) and the *Asylum Seeker Protection Act* (H.R.2662). I am outraged by the administration’s Migration Protection Protocol and the Asylum Cooperative Agreements, forcibly returning people to so-called “safe third countries” where they continue to face harm, as well as the PACR & HARP tent courts that violate due process. My community welcomes asylum seekers and immigrants, and I urge you to do the same.”

2. Amplify Your Message on Social Media

Use these graphics and these sample Facebook and Twitter posts to spread the word and to encourage others to contact their Members of Congress. Square graphics are recommended for use on Facebook and Instagram, while the rectangular graphics are best for Twitter.

Don’t forget to tweet at your Members of Congress with the same message.

Here are some sample posts (please replace @[LEGISLATOR] below in these examples with the Twitter handle of your Member of Congress):

- **.@[LEGISLATOR]** I urge you to stop funding inhumane + cruel anti-asylum policies in FY21 spending bills. Instead, restore and strengthen asylum protections by co-sponsoring the Refugee Protection Act and Asylum Seeker Protection Act. #Faith4Asylum
- **.@[LEGISLATOR]** my community in [CITY/TOWN] welcomes asylum seekers + immigrants, and I urge you to do the same. Please defund anti-asylum policies like MPP + restore asylum protections by co-sponsoring Refugee Protection Act + Asylum Seeker Protection Act. #Faith4Asylum
- **.@[LEGISLATOR]** I am outraged by the systemic evisceration of the U.S. asylum system. As you consider federal funding for FY 2021, stop funding anti-asylum policies + cosponsor the Refugee Protection Act + Asylum Seeker Protection Act.. #Faith4Asylum

3. Submit a Letter to the Editor

Don't stop there! After you call your Members of Congress, head to your computer to write a short letter to the editor. Below are the steps to follow. Contact media@interfaithimmigration.org for help!

- **Look up your local newspaper online** to find its submission guidelines for letters to the editor. Some will have you email them the letter, others will require you to submit it via an online form. [Google your newspaper name plus "LTE submission" if you can't find it.]
- **Draft the letter.** Keep it short and simple, no more than 250 words. We recommend making two points:
 - Our vision for the United States is as a beacon of hope and a place of refuge for people fleeing violence and persecution. The current administration does not share this vision, and is putting policies in place that destroy asylum and send refugees back to danger.
 - We demand Congress step in immediately and do two things: 1) Defund anti-asylum policies and 2) pass legislation to restore asylum protections. The two bills we are asking them to pass are the Refugee Protection Act (H.R.5210 / S.2936) and the Asylum Seeker Protection Act (H.R.2662).
- **Submit your letter.** Follow the guidelines for your specific paper. Include your full legal name, daytime phone number, and mailing address. They will use this for verification and to contact you if they decide to print your letter.
- **Send us a copy.** Email media@interfaithimmigration.org when you submit your letter, and also when it is published! We will post your letters on our social media accounts.

For more information about asylum, including statistics you can use in your letter, visit our website: www.faith4asylum.com. Thank you for taking action, and please forward to your networks!