



## April 4... Alert on Immigration

### What's Happening?

On March 16th, the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee introduced and passed a **particularly heinous bill that would drastically reduce refugee resettlement** in the US and negatively impact the lives of refugees around the world. H.R. 4731, "The Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act," includes 12 pages of harmful provisions that deny life-saving protections for vulnerable people. Some of the most harmful provisions would: Drastically reduce and cap refugee admissions at 60,000 per year, regardless of need; Place refugees under continual surveillance after they have arrived; Allow state and local governments who "disapprove" of refugees to veto resettlement in their localities; Restrict access to resettlement for many vulnerable Muslim refugees under the guise of prioritizing religious minorities. This bill greatly diminishes not only the integrity of refugee resettlement but also the hope of new life for tens of thousands of refugees. At a time when we are facing the largest refugee crisis in recorded history, hope for resettlement is already scarce. Yet our faith reminds us that hope and love are the most resilient tools against fear and hatred.

(Adapted from LIRS)

### **Action One: Prayer**

Dear Lord, we who are divided, unloving, prejudiced at times, inclined to misunderstanding, intolerant – Make us instead united, loving, open to learning, understanding and forgiving, tolerant. May your Spirit be present in us as you are in all peoples.

(A Prayer for Tolerance; Source: Education for Justice)

### **Action Two: Calls/Letters**

#### **Urge Speaker Ryan to Reject Anti-Refugee Bill:**

<https://secure2.convio.net/lirs/site/Advocacy?alertId=223&pg=makeACall#.Vvr3uHq4abh>

#### **Contact House leadership TODAY: Urge them to STOP this anti-refugee bill (HR4731):**

Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI-1): (202) 225-0600 / @SpeakerRyan

Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA-23): 202-225-4000 / @GOPLeader

Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA-1): (202) 225-0197 / @SteveScalise

Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-5): (202) 225-5107 / @housegop

Policy Committee Chair Luke Messer (R-IN-6): (202) 225-3021 / @RepLukeMesser

**Sample Script:** *"I support refugee resettlement, and I urge the Representative to STOP H.R.4731, the "Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act" from coming up for a vote. The bill passed the House Judiciary Committee, but would decimate refugee resettlement by drastically reducing refugee admissions, changing the definition of who is a refugee, allowing states and localities to stop resettlement to their areas, placing refugees under continual surveillance, and discriminating against people based on their religion, among other provisions. This bill runs counter to the humanitarian leadership of the United States and the welcome of the American people. Please oppose H.R.4731 and don't bring this bill up for a vote."*

**Tell DHS No One Should Be Deported to their Death:** <http://act.mpowerchange.org/sign/tell-dhs-no-one-should-be-deported2death/?t=1&akid=17.14070.3uFADd>

**Tell your Lawmaker to Pass HR922, Responsible Budget Resolution:** <http://www.responsiblebudget.org/takeaction>

**Sign Petition to VP President Joe Biden: Close the SOA & Scrap the 'Biden Plan':**

[http://org.salsalabs.com/o/727/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=19410](http://org.salsalabs.com/o/727/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=19410)

**Tell Congress to Support the Fair Day in Court for Kids Act:**

[http://org.salsalabs.com/o/625/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=19367](http://org.salsalabs.com/o/625/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=19367)

**Tell your Representatives & Senators to Open their Hearts to Refugees:**

<https://secure.crs.org/site/Advocacy;jsessionid=4D1261AEC154CC883E47D2BB43897BD3.app217a?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=914&AddInterest=1881>

**Call your Senators & Representatives (202-224-3121) – Urge them to cosponsor and support S.2540 &**

**H.R.4646. Sample Script:** “I’m a constituent from [City, State] and I urge all Senators and Representatives to co-sponsor and support *The Fair Day in Court for Kids Act*. Children from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are fleeing traumatizing violence and should not have to stand before an immigration judge alone. *The Fair Day in Court for Kids Act* would increase legal orientation programs, ensure children have access to lawyers, and increase court appearance rates.”

**Tell the Obama Administration to Stop the Raids on Central American Refugees:** [http://action.groundswell-](http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-the-obama-administration-stop-the-raids-on-central-american-refugees)

[mvmt.org/petitions/tell-the-obama-administration-stop-the-raids-on-central-american-refugees](http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-the-obama-administration-stop-the-raids-on-central-american-refugees)

### **Action Three: Education**

Undocumented Students get Library of Congress to Alter Language on Immigrants:

<http://fusion.net/story/286753/library-of-congress-drops-illegal-alien-thanks-to-students/>

Pastors Condemn ICE Tactics: <http://thinkprogress.org/immigration/2016/03/25/3762021/villatoro-garcia-deportation/>

With Case Backlogs Rising, Immigration Courts Struggle to Protect the Vulnerable:

<http://www.wbur.org/2016/03/22/mentally-illness-immigration-courts-boston>

Conservative Group Says Booting All Undocumented Immigrants Could Cost At Least \$400 Billion:

<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/article/20160321/NEWS/160329962>

### **Action Four: Events/Resources**

**Share any info you have on reports of raids on Central Americans in your community here:**

<http://www.aila.org/advo-media/agency-liaison/case-examples/reports-of-raids-against-central-american-families>

**Immigration Raids Alert:** <http://www.nilc.org/raidsalert2016.html>

**Know Your Rights Resources:** <https://afsc.org/category/topic/know-your-rights>

### **Action Five: Social Media**

**Twitter:** Access your member of Congress’ twitter handle at <http://stuffthought.com/blog/113th-congress-twitter-handles/>

**Sample Tweet:** Our country welcomes #refugees. @SpeakerRyan - reject HR 4731, the so-called "Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act" #StandForWelcome

**Thank you for your efforts!**