

# Human Rights First

## Discrimination, Detention, and Deportation: Immigration & Refugees

<https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/press-release/human-rights-first-celebrates-world-refugee-day>

## Public Facing Advocacy Writing

Work With Asylum Seekers

If you are seeking asylum, we can help

Areas of Focus

Current Initiatives

**Washington, D.C.** In honor of World Refugee Day, Human Rights First today urged lawmakers to reject policies and practices that undermine American leadership in protecting the persecuted. This year's observance comes as the world faces the greatest refugee crisis since World War II.

Today we honor the incredible bravery and resilience of refugees people fleeing persecution and violence in search of safety and freedom. Their courage and perseverance inspire us, said Human Rights First's President and CEO Elisa Massimino. Now is no time to abdicate American leadership with policies that demonize refugees and abandon them to danger. One of the great strengths of our country has been its embrace of those who seek freedom from oppression and violence. We urge American policymakers and lawmakers to stand up for and welcome those who need our protection. Refugees renew America.

The U.N. Refugee Agency reports that in 2016 there were over 65 million people displaced from their homes. Nearly half of them are children. On average, a person somewhere in the world is forced to flee their home every three seconds. And yet, refugees and asylum seekers are facing heightened threats under the Trump Administration, from executive orders to an emboldened detention and deportation force. Through its pro bono representation of refugees seeking asylum, Human Rights First sees every day the devastating impact President Trump's executive order under review by federal courts and an emboldened deportation force would have on refugees.

For nearly 40 years, Human Rights First has helped people who were forced to flee persecution, torture, and even threats of death in their home countries. The organization's approach which combines assisting individual refugees to gain protection while pressing for fair and humane national asylum laws and policies is highly effective in helping people become new and engaged members of American society and in bringing about sustained and positive change in laws and policies towards refugees.

Today Human Rights First celebrates the stories of refugees and those who stand up for them. To learn more about the brave individuals who have fled violence and persecution, check out the [Refugee Voices](#) video series.

Published on June 20, 2017

Share

Systemic Injustice-Refugee Protection

2017 Pro Bono Stars: Houston

Blog

Systemic Injustice-Refugee Protection

Joint Letter to President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas & AG Garland on Title 42

Letter

Systemic Injustice-Refugee Protection

360 Videos Document Life for Asylum Seekers at U.S. Border

Press

Systemic Injustice-Refugee Protection

5 Ways To Help Migrant Parents And Children At The Border

Blog

Systemic Injustice-Refugee Protection

5th Circuit Amicus Brief in State of Texas, State of Missouri v Biden: HRF Opposes MPP on the Merits

Amicus Briefs

Systemic Injustice-Refugee Protection

A life in safety would not mean anything if my children were not here with me: Joys and Trauma Persist for Refugees Separated from Their Families

Letter

Systemic Injustice-Refugee Protection

A Second Chance for Detained Asylum Seekers in Jennings v. Rodriguez

Blog

Systemic Injustice-Refugee Protection

A Shameful Record: Biden Administrations Use of Trump Policies Endangers People Seeking Asylum

Reports

Systemic Injustice-Refugee Protection

A Sign of Desperation: Syrian Refugees are Selling Their Organs

Blog

Systemic Injustice-Refugee Protection

A Sordid Scheme: The Trump Administrations Illegal Return of Asylum Seekers to Mexico

Reports

Systemic Injustice-Refugee Protection

A Sordid Scheme: The Trump Administrations Illegal Return of Asylum Seekers to Mexico

Reports

Systemic Injustice-Refugee Protection

A Year After Del Rio, Haitian Asylum Seekers Expelled Under Title 42 Are Still Suffering

Letter

Urge Congress to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act

Human Rights First is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3). We do not favor or oppose any candidate for public office.