

Human Rights First

Discrimination, Detention, and Deportation: Immigration & Refugees

<https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/press-release/human-rights-first-and-irap-release-white-paper-outlining-private-refugee-sponsorship>

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Current Initiatives

New York City Today, Human Rights First and the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) at the Urban Justice Center and Human Rights First published a [white paper](#) on private sponsorship of refugee resettlement. The [white paper](#) outlines the key principles for designing and implementing a pilot program in the United States.

Americans have long supported the ideal of providing refuge for the persecuted. At a time when there are more refugees fleeing violence and persecution than at any time since World War II, private sponsorship would allow for a greater number of refugees to rebuild their lives in safety in the United States, said Human Rights First's **Jennifer Quigley**.

IRAP's Policy Director, Betsy Fisher, said: Private sponsorship of refugees is about expanding bridges between local communities and refugees in need. Sponsorship has the potential to increase the number of refugees who can be resettled, while also allowing American sponsors to build direct and personal relationships with refugees.

Modeled after the already existing program in Canada, such a program could be a critical opportunity for the United States to increase its refugee resettlement numbers and further refugee integration in its communities. Moreover, a private sponsorship option would take advantage of the growing desire among communities and individuals to be directly involved in helping refugee families, as well as open up new avenues for private-public partnerships in refugee resettlement.

As suggested in the [paper](#), key principles for implementing private sponsorship include:

After several months of advocacy from Human Rights First, IRAP, and other refugee advocacy organizations, the U.S. State Department announced on September 20, 2016, that a pilot program may be launched before the end of the current administration. Human Rights First and IRAP urge the government to pursue this plan that would increase U.S. refugee resettlement numbers in the coming years in order to alleviate the ever growing humanitarian crisis.

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