



Protect deserving, carefully vetted Syrian and Iraqi refugees and their families fleeing violence and death

[Contact your U.S. Senators NOW](#)

Background: In the aftermath of the violent attacks on Paris, 31 governors made public statements that they wanted resettlement of Syrian refugees halted in their states. Days later, the U.S. House of Representatives, with comparable intentions, passed [H.R. 4038, The American Security against Foreign Enemies \(SAFE\) Act](#), which would effectively halt all resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in the United States for a protracted time.

The week after Thanksgiving, the same bill or similar legislation will likely be introduced and voted on in the U.S. Senate, and even worse legislation may continue to be introduced. Meanwhile, some federal lawmakers may also try to use the Omnibus appropriations bill that must be passed by December 11th as a vehicle for securing passage of the SAFE Act or similar legislation.

On November 17th, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, issued [a statement](#) which said, in part, "I am disturbed...by calls from both federal and state officials for an end to the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the United States. These refugees are fleeing terror themselves—violence like we have witnessed in Paris. They are extremely vulnerable families, women, and children who are fleeing for their lives. We cannot and should not blame them for the actions of a terrorist organization."

Moreover, Bishop Elizondo urged that, "Instead of using this tragedy to scapegoat all refugees, I call upon our public officials to work together to end the Syrian conflict peacefully so the close to 4 million Syrian refugees can return to their country and rebuild their homes. Until that goal is achieved, we must work with the world community to provide safe haven to vulnerable and deserving refugees who are simply attempting to survive. As a great nation, the United States must show leadership during this crisis and bring nations together to protect those in danger and bring an end to the conflicts in the Middle East."

Your U.S. Senators need to hear from you, your neighbors and fellow parishioners that you oppose H.R. 4038 and other bills that would stop or halt the resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

Action: Send the following message to your U.S. Senators:

Dear Senator,

Please oppose H.R. 4038 or similar legislation which would halt the resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in the U.S.

More information and a USCCB/MRS response toolkit on Syrian refugees is available at <http://bit.ly/1SMTCFK>