



# FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK

P.O. Box 29106 \* Washington, D.C. 20017 \* 202-527-7575 \* 202-527-7576 (Fax) \* [www.franciscanaction.org](http://www.franciscanaction.org)

Franciscan Action Network Statement to House Judiciary Sub-Committee on Immigration and Citizenship Hearing on February 27, 2020, "The Current State of the U.S. Refugee Program"

Franciscan Action Network (FAN) strongly supports the Refugee Protection Act of 2019, and welcomes the opportunity to submit a statement to the House Judiciary Sub-Committee on Immigration and Citizenship for their hearing on February 27, 2020. Welcoming refugees to the United States has long been a tradition which not only protects refugees fleeing violence and persecution but also benefits the communities who welcome them. Our country is stronger because families fleeing for their lives or from intolerable oppression in their home countries have demonstrated their gratitude by contributing to the economic and social well-being of their new home, the United States of America.

As a Christian organization, FAN responds to the teachings of Jesus to welcome the stranger. As Catholics we heed the challenge of Pope Francis who urges us to speak up in defense of refugees and use our resources to help people escaping war, violence and persecution. As Franciscans, we are rooted in relationship, because St. Francis of Assisi embraced all people as brother and sister.

FAN is deeply disturbed by the administration's continued efforts to diminish the number of refugees resettled in this country, capping the number at a historic low of 18,000 for 2020. Refugees are families torn apart by this decision. As we see in the media, many thousands who wait in crowded, unhealthy refugee camps in several countries are children. It is appalling that this country, with its tradition of hospitality and resources to assist refugees, continues to post the sign, Not Welcome Here. FAN joins many other refugee advocates in urging support for the Refugee Protection Act of 2019.