



There is strength in numbers.

February 24, 2020

Refugees are pouring **unchecked** into America.

( **Not.** )



"Just the **facts**, ma'am."

**Fact:** Less than 1% of the world's refugees are transferred for resettlement.

**Fact:** Refugees go through a long, often years-long, rigorous vetting process to enter the United States. If there is any doubt about a refugee's history, affiliations, identity, or credibility—they will not get in.

**Fact:** The U.S. has a proud tradition of welcoming legal refugees, especially those fleeing from war, poverty, famine, and persecution. Yet, the cap for admissions has been reduced significantly, beginning in 2017. Globally, forced displacement has been rising; the scale and severity of refugee need increases.

**Fact:** Today, more than ever, the U.S. can and should continue to be a safe haven.

A very **long** walk.

**Step 1.** Refugees must go through an in-depth vulnerability-assessment, and background and security screenings with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

**Step 2.** Resettlement Support Centers screen each refugee again and create a case file that will accompany them through all checkpoints.

**Step 3.** Again, all refugees are screened, this time by multiple U.S. security agencies who conduct biographic security checks.

- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Justice / FBI
- National Counterterrorism Center
- State Department

**Step 4.** The Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (DHS/USCIS) conducts in-depth, in-person interviews and collect fingerprints.

- if rejected, they cannot appeal the decision
- if approved, the refugee receives conditional approval for resettlement, but
- they must pass a Medical Examination and More Extensive Security Checks.

**Step 5.** Medical Examination and More Extensive Security Checks: The U.S. conducts meticulous security and medical screenings, which include:

- biographic and identity investigations
- FBI biometric checks of fingerprints and photographs
- medical screenings
- other examinations by U.S. domestic and international intelligence agencies like the National Counterterrorism Center/Intelligence Community and the FBI
- refugees from some countries, such as Iraq and Syria, undergo an additional review through the Security Advisory Opinion process

**Step 6.** After a refugee has been conditionally accepted by DHS/USCIS, the RSC sends a request for sponsorship assurance to the U.S. The assurance process is managed by the State Department / Refugee Processing Center (RPC), in coordination with the nine National Refugee Resettlement Agencies (NRRAs).

- All refugees are assigned to a Resettlement Agency which determines where in the U.S. they will first arrive and sets up cultural orientation classes to prepare them for life in the U.S.
- Travel arrangements are facilitated through the U.S. Resettlement Agencies and the International Organization of Migration (IOM).
- Refugees receive an interest-free travel loan to pay for the cost of their transportation to the U.S.

**Write to your Representative & Senator.**

Tell them: Please keep TN's doors open for those legal refugees fleeing from war, poverty, famine, and persecution. Forced displacement has been rising; TN should rise and meet the challenge.

[My Legislator](#)