SAFE REFUGE DENIED

Asylum seekers, like refugees, are migrants who flee their homes due to a fear of violence or persecution. U.S. and international laws affirm the right to apply for asylum. However, several changes in U.S. immigration policy are preventing asylum seekers from finding safety.

For more information, visit mcc.org/safe-refuge

*PACR/HARP - Prompt Asylum Claim Review/Humanitarian Asylum Review Process*
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Support the Refugee Protection Act (H.R. 5210/S. 2936) and the Asylum Seeker Protection Act (H.R. 2662).** The Refugee Protection Act would, among other provisions, prohibit the criminal prosecution of asylum seekers, reduce the use of detention, restore protections for victims of domestic violence and gang violence and provide lawyers for children in immigration court. The Asylum Seeker Protection Act would prohibit the use of funds to implement or enforce policies that send people back to Mexico.

2. **End all policies restricting legal access to asylum in the U.S.,** including metering, the Migrant Protection Protocols, Asylum Cooperative Agreements and the Prompt Asylum Claim Review/Humanitarian Asylum Review Process.

3. **End the detention of asylum seekers,** a cruel mandate that only increases trauma. Instead, utilize alternatives such as the Family Case Management Program that are far cheaper and proven effective.

4. **End funding for border militarization, detention and programs that undermine asylum.** Instead, support humanitarian assistance at the border, foreign assistance that addresses the root causes of migration and alternatives to detention.

5. **Create more avenues for legal immigration for work or family,** relieving pressure on the asylum system.

**PROVIDING SAFE REFUGE IS LEGAL, MORAL AND A WIN-WIN**

♥ **Asylum is legal.** U.S. and international law recognize the right for people fleeing harm to request asylum. Such laws arose in the aftermath of the Holocaust with a recognition that thousands of people perished after countries refused to give them safe refuge.

♥ **Asylum is moral.** Many ancestors of U.S. citizens fled persecution and violence before coming to the U.S. People seeking refuge today are in no less need of protection.

♥ **Asylum is a win-win.** Asylum seekers and refugees find safety while also contributing to their new communities and helping to revitalize economically depressed areas. Most asylum seekers have family in the U.S. who can support them while they await their day in court.

♥ **Churches are welcoming asylum seekers.** Many local churches and nonprofits are providing food, clothing, transportation and hospitality to arriving migrants who have experienced trauma at home, on the journey and upon arrival to the U.S.

Did any of your ancestors flee persecution or violence?
How are churches in your community welcoming asylum seekers and other immigrants?