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ASAP Endorses Refugee Protection Act
Congress Takes Steps to Restore Protections for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Washington, DC — Today, the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) announced its endorsement of the 2019 Refugee Protection Act (RPA). Representative Zoe Lofgren and Senator Patrick Leahy introduced the 2019 RPA, after working with dozens of non-profit organizations, including ASAP, that provide legal assistance to asylum seekers throughout the United States and at the Mexico-U.S. border.

“The Refugee Protection Act is a blueprint for Congress outlining the changes that must occur to give asylum seekers and refugees an opportunity to find safety and security in the United States,” said ASAP Co-Executive Director, Conchita Cruz. “ASAP is proud to support the work of members of Congress who see that our current asylum system is broken and recognize the important role legislators must play in ensuring asylum seekers and refugees are welcome in the United States. Congress must act to pass this legislation and enshrine in law the protections that we as a country must provide to those who seek safe haven here, including the opportunity to present one’s asylum claims in court.”

The RPA ensures asylum seekers have an opportunity to present their claims in court; provides victims of domestic violence with clear asylum eligibility by amending the definition of particular social group and rolling back the Attorney General’s decision in Matter of A-B-; stops the Administration’s proposed rule to strip asylum seekers of work authorization; creates safeguards for refugees and asylum seekers who were denied asylum because of unlawful policies like the Administration’s “Remain in Mexico” policy; and restores protections from removal for victims of crimes, trafficking, and domestic violence seeking immigration relief that were taken away by the Trump Administration.

Read the Refugee Protection Act here.

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