

Jewish Letter of Support for The No Ban Act



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

April 10, 2019

Dear Member of Congress:

We write as 18 Jewish organizations to ask that you support the *No Ban Act*. We stand in solidarity with our Muslim neighbors, and in support of refugees and asylum seekers from around the world.

As American Jews, we are proud of our country's legacy as a place that welcomes people who are forced to flee their homelands in search of safety. Judaism teaches that all human beings are created *b'tzelem Elohim* - in the image of God - whether Jewish, Muslim, or immigrant, and that to acknowledge the dignity of each human being is to honor God's presence in the world.

We are currently facing the largest forced displacement crisis in recorded history, with 68.5 million forcibly displaced people globally, including nearly 25.4 million refugees. The U.S has for decades been the global leader in refugee resettlement, welcoming over 3 million refugees since 1980.

At the same time, over the past two years, the Administration has taken steps to ban people from Muslim majority countries, reduce the number of refugee arrivals of all faiths, and block asylum seekers through various Muslim and refugee bans. While Christian and Jewish refugee arrivals are significantly down in recent years, Muslim refugee arrivals have been disproportionately affected, with Muslim refugee arrivals 90.4% lower than FY2016.

The No Ban Act will amend the *Immigration and Nationality Act* to prohibit discrimination based on religion. It will repeal all versions of the Muslim Ban authorized through executive order over the past two years, and will limit the broad executive authority that has allowed the refugee and asylum bans by imposing stricter implementation requirements and greater congressional oversight.

We urge you to support *The No Ban Act*. America must remain a beacon of religious freedom. The United States is at its best when we see all of our fates as bound with one another's and remain a welcoming place for all.

Signed,

American Jewish World Service
ADL (Anti-Defamation League)
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Central Conference of American Rabbis
HIAS
J Street
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Labor Committee
Keshet
National Council of Jewish Women

Rabbinical Assembly
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Right Now: Advocates for Asylum Seekers in Israel
T'ruah: the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Union for Reform Judaism
Uri L'Tzedek
Women of Reform Judaism
The Workmen's Circle