

#Comments4Asylum Interfaith Toolkit

Background: After years of chipping away at the asylum system and the rights of those in need of protection, the Trump administration is [proposing](#) a rule that would effectively end asylum once and for all. This is a crisis moment and historic low point with literal life or death consequences for some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

In the proposed rule, the administration would allow judges to decide cases before people have had the chance to present their full case in court and deny asylum for reasons that have nothing to do with the need for protection. It raises the standards for the initial border interview impossibly high and gives adjudicators discretion to deny asylum applications on legal grounds that federal courts are currently reviewing and are not yet final. It also ends asylum for those fleeing violence from intimate partners and family members, gangs and other non-state actors. Instead of the typical 60-day comment period, the administration is only allowing 30 days, seeking to execute its cruel and deadly plan as quickly as possible.

Interfaith teachings recognize the dignity and sanctity of every human being. This rule would discard those who need hospitality and protection the most.

*This is a moment of crisis and calling for people of faith.
Asylum seekers need you to raise your voice now.*

THREE ACTIONS TO TAKE TODAY

1. Submit a public comment:

Use this [click-to-comment campaign](#) to learn more and submit your comment to the administration today! The click-to-comment campaign will close **1 p.m. ET Wednesday, July 15.**

2. Take the #Comments4Asylum pledge:

After submitting your comment, take the #Comments4Asylum pledge and get three other people to join you. You can reach out one-on-one or tag people on social media!

Sample social media post: My faith called me to submit a comment against the administration's plan to end asylum. I am pledging to get three others to speak out for those seeking safety too! [Insert handle][Insert handle][Insert handle]
Join me: <https://p2a.co/vRu15hT> #Comments4Asylum #Faith4Asylum

3. Write a personalized letter:

Send a handwritten letter to the administration about why the U.S. must protect asylum seekers. Use your own experiences, stories, perspectives, values and research. See resources at the end of the toolkit.

Handwritten letters and other unique comments are key to helping slow down this cruel plan. *Note:* you can comment online AND send a letter, there is no limit.

Instructions:

1. To count, the letter must reference: **“DHS/EOIR; RIN 1125-AA94; EOIR Docket No. 18-0002.”**
2. The letter must be postmarked by July 15, 2020.
3. Address:

Lauren Alder Reid, Assistant Director
Office of Policy
Executive Office for Immigration Review
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1800,
Falls Church, VA 22041

***Additional action!** Take a picture of your letter and share on social media using the #Comments4Asylum and #Faith4Asylum hashtags!

Asylum Resources:

- Asylum stories collections:
 - [Already vulnerable migrants in Juarez endangered by COVID-19 pandemic](#)
 - [“Out of sight, out of mind:” Six stories of asylum seekers and migrants under MPP](#)
 - [Seven Migrant Protection Protocols stories from Estamos Unidos: Asylum Project](#)
- [Interfaith Immigration Coalition Faith4Asylum Resources](#)
- [Justice for Immigrants Asylum Resources](#)