



World Refugee Day • June 20, 2019

Refugee admissions update

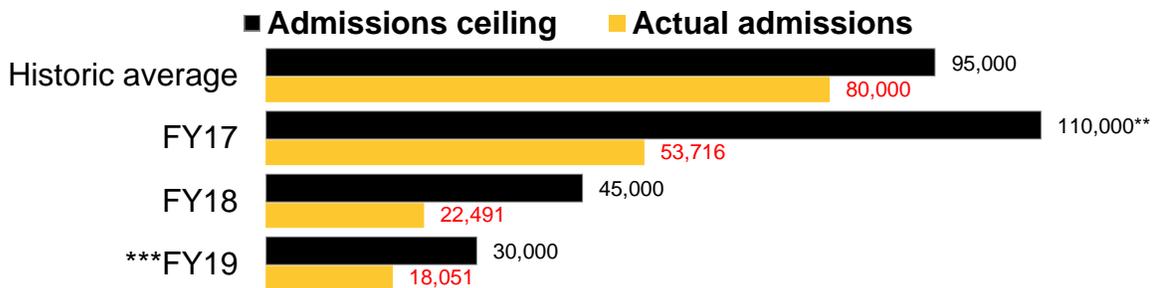
June 20 is World Refugee Day. Today, we face an unprecedented global crisis, with more than 25 million refugees fleeing violence and persecution. Despite consistent popular support for refugees, a flurry of new policies have made it increasingly difficult for them to find safe haven in the U.S. As a result, we are witnessing the slow-motion dismantling of America’s bipartisan refugee resettlement program, the world’s gold standard in terms of safety, successful integration, economic contribution, and life-saving impact on vulnerable people.

America’s legacy is under threat and people in desperate need of protection are being left out in the cold, including families in need of reunification and people whose lives are at risk for their support of U.S. missions abroad. So far, however, this reality has largely flown under the radar. Misinformation has only made matters worse. So this World Refugee Day, we’re turning to the numbers.

THREE THINGS U.S. REFUGEE ADMISSIONS DATA TELL US:

1. Refugee admissions decline in the third year of the Trump presidency

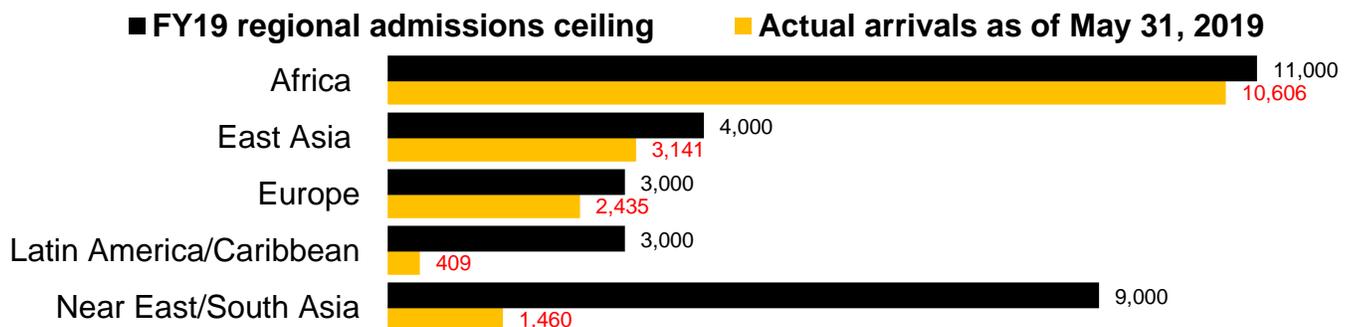
Refugee admissions continue to be slashed under the Trump administration. An analysis of the numbers yields a stark conclusion: the Administration’s policies on refugee admissions will have generational impact on the U.S. program and on the lives of the most vulnerable. The FY19 admissions ceiling is a historic low: just 30,000 refugees, less than a third of America’s historic average commitment. It has been coupled with artificially reduced processing capacity: eight months into FY19, a mere 18,051 refugees have been welcomed to the U.S. at a rate of around 2,250 a month. In contrast, the U.S. has historically welcomed an average of over 6,500 refugees per month since 1980.*



* All data available on WRAPSnet.org. ** Changed to 50,000 with Executive Order 13769. *** FY19 up to May 31, 2019.

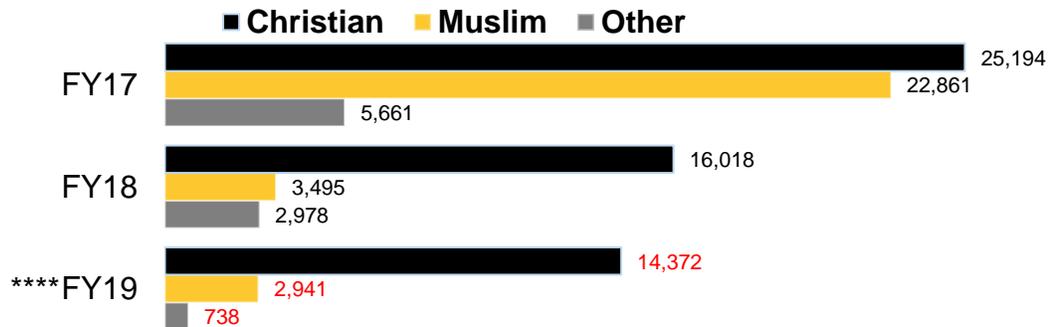
2. Admissions are significantly slower for applicants from select regions

A closer look at refugee admissions so far this year reveals that progress toward some regional ceilings are out of step with need. While refugee admissions from Africa, East Asia, and Europe are nearly complete with a third of the year left to go, admissions from Latin America/Caribbean and Near East/South Asia have all but barely begun. Admissions from both regions are on pace to reach just a fifth of their respective ceiling by the end of the fiscal year.



3. Muslim refugees are particularly impacted by declining admissions

While no religious group has been spared by the plummeting rate of refugee admissions under this administration, Muslim refugees have borne the brunt of these cuts. Between FY17 and FY18, admissions of Christian refugees declined by 36 percent while admissions of Muslim refugees declined by 85 percent. Muslim refugees are now on track to comprise just 15 percent of total admissions this fiscal year despite the fact that most of the world's largest refugee crises impact majority-Muslim countries.



**** FY19 up to May 31, 2019.

FOUR IMPORTANT ACTIONS LEGISLATORS CAN TAKE TO SUPPORT REFUGEES

Cosponsor the GRACE Act

The GRACE Act would set the annual minimum number of refugees admitted to the U.S. to 95,000 people, which is the average refugee admissions ceiling since 1980.

Cosponsor the NO BAN Act

The NO BAN Act would repeal the successive Travel, Refugee, and Asylum Bans issued by Executive Order, further prohibit discrimination against immigrants based on religion, and limit any president's ability to introduce similar bans in the future.

Exercise oversight on refugee admissions

The administration must be held accountable for the state of the refugee resettlement program. Legislators should demand answers about the pace and nature of admissions in FY19, and call on the administration to set a ceiling of no less than 95,000 in FY20.

House Members: Join the Bipartisan Congressional Refugee Caucus

The Refugee Caucus is critical to affirming the need for the U.S. to demonstrate leadership both in terms of refugee resettlement and overseas refugee protection.