



Trump Administration abandons religious minorities as U.S. refugee admissions decline

Since the beginning of the Trump presidency, U.S. resettlement of religious minorities has fallen sharply.

- According to the IRC's latest analysis, the U.S. has only resettled an estimated 9,000 religious minorities so far this fiscal year.¹
- In contrast, in FY16 the U.S. resettled roughly 31,500 religious minorities, according to analysis by Pew Research Center.²

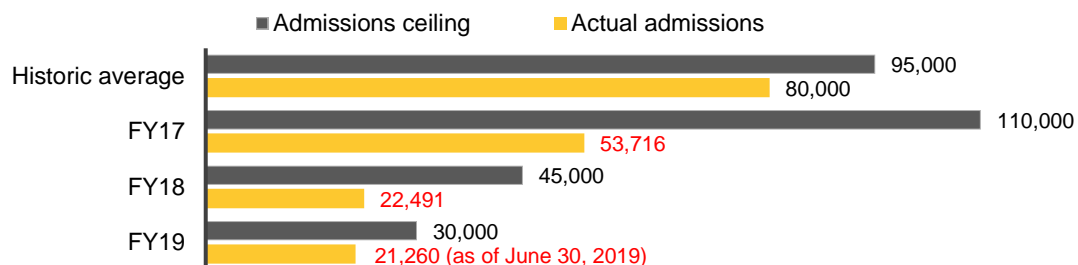
No religious minority group has been spared from the decline in resettlement.³

Select religious minorities:	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19 (as of June 30, 2019)
Iranian Christians	1,386	1,692	2,086	1,540	23	66
Iraqi Christians	4,627	2,113	1,525	1,373	26	58
Iraqi and Syrian Yezidis	144	213	417	460	5	14
Rohingya Muslims	655	2,573	2,276	1,103	796	523

This retreat comes at a time when the number of people impacted by religious persecution worldwide is rising.

- As of 2016, more than a quarter of governments worldwide imposed substantial restrictions on religion, nearly the highest level over the past decade.⁴
- The number of countries with patterns of societal hostilities against certain religious groups was at approximately the same level.⁵
- While Christians and Muslims are the most widely targeted groups, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and adherents of many other minority religions also suffer from persecution in large numbers.⁶

In a stark departure from historic bipartisan tradition, the Trump Administration is abandoning the world's most vulnerable refugees.



¹ All admissions data retrieved from WRAPSnet.org. FY19 data calculated using Pew Research Center methodology: https://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2017/02/06164107/Methodology_02-06-17_KK.pdf

² Katayoun Kishi, "Most refugees who enter the U.S. as religious minorities are Christians." February 7, 2017. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/02/07/most-refugees-who-enter-the-u-s-as-religious-minorities-are-christians/>

³ FY19 data from October 1, 2018 to July 10, 2019.

⁴ Katayoun Kishi, "Key findings on the global rise in religious restrictions." June 21, 2018. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/06/21/key-findings-on-the-global-rise-in-religious-restrictions/>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.