



# 8 Ways the Trump Administration's Executive Orders Harm Refugee Women and Children

*Sarah Costa, Executive Director of the Women's Refugee Commission, outlines some of the consequences of the Administration's recent policy announcements.*

## **1. Punishes women and children who are fleeing some of the world's worst conflicts.**

The war in Syria, the violence perpetrated by ISIS, and other conflicts around the world directly target women and children when rape is used as a weapon of warfare, when women and girls are forced into sexual slavery, and when they are subjected to gender-based violence. The U.S. resettlement program is one way to protect them from these life-threatening assaults.

## **2. Leaves refugee women and children awaiting resettlement stranded in danger and limbo.**

By suspending the refugee resettlement program, women and children who have already gone through an extensive vetting process--and have been cleared to enter into the U.S.--are now forced to remain in dangerous situations.

## **3. Punishes asylum-seeking women and children by pushing them back at the border.**

The Executive Orders (EOs) shut off access to asylum for countless asylum seekers, including many women and children who are fleeing violence and persecution.

## **4. Targets everyone for immigration enforcement and deportation**

No one is safe. The order will target women who are trying to escape abusive relationships, mothers of U.S. citizen children, and countless others.



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## **5. Tears families apart.**

Children face traumatic and potentially permanent separation when their parents are detained and/or deported. Some may end up in the U.S. foster care system despite having family who want and are able to care for them.

## **6. Deprives access to reproductive health care.**

The reinstatement of the Mexico City Protocol (Global Gag Order) forces foreign organizations to choose between accepting U.S. funding or providing critical access and information on comprehensive reproductive health care to tens of millions of women around the world. In the past, this has forced clinics to close and has severely limited access to contraceptives, which has resulted in more unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions.

## **7. Force asylum seekers underground.**

The EOs forces refugees, asylum seekers, women, and children desperately seeking safety and protection into the shadows, making them extremely vulnerable to traffickers, smugglers, and criminal organizations.

## **8. Causes a ripple effect around the globe.**

The administration's actions sets a bad example throughout the world. These actions abandon our commitment and obligations under the refugee convention and other international human obligations. They give license to other countries to follow the U.S.'s lead and close doors to refugees, leaving even more women and children in danger. This not only fails to make America safe, it destabilizes communities globally, leading to more chaos and conflict.