The Need

The world is facing a historic migration crisis with over 80 million people displaced around the globe. This humanitarian emergency requires immediate, bold action to help migrant families reach safety.

IRAP innovates smart and durable solutions through legal tools and advocacy efforts, proving that migrants have the power and the voice to change their vision -- now and in the future.

Our Approach

The International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) advocates for refugees and displaced people in need of a safe place to call home through free direct legal services, systemic advocacy, and litigation.

IRAP is a unique virtual public interest law firm powered by our staff, student advocates, pro bono partners, and supporters around the globe. Together, we use technological solutions to transcend borders and deliver free, high-quality legal representation to displaced people, no matter where they live.

Our impact litigation and systemic advocacy is informed by our individual casework. We work alongside the populations we serve to identify emerging patterns and urgent needs that can be remedied through legal challenges, policy changes, and client empowerment.

Our Impact

IRAP is a global leader in advocating for the world’s most vulnerable displaced people. Since our establishment in 2010, IRAP has:

- Delivered legal aid to over 33,000 individuals;
- Helped more than 17,000 individuals through our automated chatbot, which helps individuals navigate refugee resettlement and visa options;
- Led the passage of 14 provisions of bipartisan U.S. congressional legislation, opening and expanding pathways to safety for over 189,000 people; and
- Leveraged the courts in cases that could provide pathways to safety for approximately 339,000 individuals.
REUNITING FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD

Family reunification is a priority for most displaced persons and for most nations. It has emerged as a key route to safety for displaced people, including hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied children.

IRAP collaborates with governments in destination countries and NGO partners to help displaced people access family reunification programs and other available pathways to safety. IRAP has launched pilot programs focused on family reunification in Greece, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, and elsewhere to connect displaced people to the legal support they need to reunite with loved ones.

DELIVERING ON-THE-GROUND SUPPORT TO DISPLACED PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

From our offices in Lebanon and Jordan, IRAP works to identify highly vulnerable individuals and provide them with urgently needed support. In addition to helping displaced people navigate legal pathways to safety, our team connects them to community-based agencies for services such as housing, medical care, education, and psychosocial support.

REBUILDING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES

IRAP is advocating for a new era of improved and expanded pro-refugee law and policy for displaced people trying to reach safety in the United States. IRAP’s litigation and policy teams have achieved key wins to protect the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

In collaboration with partners on the ground, we have launched a new project to deliver remote legal aid to asylum seekers at the U.S. southern border. At the same time, we are coordinating with NGOs to bolster advocacy for pro-refugee policies at the state and local level. Lastly, we continue to work closely with displaced people and community organizations to pursue affirmative litigation that brings accountability, transparency, and greater fairness to existing systems.

EXPANDING LEGAL RIGHTS & PATHWAYS TO SAFETY FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE

IRAP proactively identifies and pursues opportunities to expand refugee rights and open new pathways to safety for displaced people worldwide.

Our bold new initiatives include working with environmental organizations to pursue better global protections, rights, and safe resettlement options for the growing number of people displaced by climate change. We are also advocating for a new pathway to safety through private sponsorship, which could expand resettlement opportunities and bolster support services for resettled refugees.