

FIRST 100 DAYS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

National Council of Jewish Women

The administration remains hard at work, and our top priorities continue to advance. The impeachment trials are consuming our electorate right now, but we have still managed to see bits of progress for refugees, immigrants, family leave, and cabinet nominations. Read on for details.

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TOP 10 PRIORITIES

Our biggest priorities for the Biden administration and Congress in the next 100 days to improve the lives of women, children, and families:

☐ Pass President Biden's American Rescue Plan

☒ Introduce Bold Immigration Bill

☐ Pass HR 1 in the House

☐ Nominate fair, independent, qualified, and diverse nominees for DC Circuit and 7th Circuit Court vacancies

☒ Repeal the Muslim Ban

☒ Rescind the Global Gag Rule and Restore Title X

☐ Confirm President Biden's Nominees for White House positions and Government Agencies

☐ Submit a clean budget without abortion coverage restrictions

☒ Create Gender Policy Council

☐ Lift unnecessary restrictions on medication abortion

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ON REFUGEES

What is it?

On February 4, President Biden signed an [executive order](#) to restore the nation's refugee resettlement program. As of October 1, 2020, the government capped resettlement at only 15,000, the lowest in modern history. The Biden administration has begun the work of rebuilding the country's capacity to resettle refugees, may [increase the cap](#) this year, and has committed to increasing the cap to 125,000 next year.

How does it relate to our past work?

A century ago, NCJW NY established an agency at Ellis Island to support and aid immigrant families, with partner offices in 250 cities providing job training and legal aid for immigrant women. Our work to support refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers continue to this day. During the previous administration, NCJW [vociferously opposed measures](#) to [limit refugee resettlement](#) and consistently [called](#) for restoring the program to full strength and admitting as many refugees as possible.

What can I do now?

Show your support for refugee resettlement on social media using this sample post:

The Torah teaches us to love the stranger. We must rebuild our nation's refugee resettlement program and welcome at least 125,000 refugees next year. #RefugeesWelcome #NCJW

ADDITIONAL ADVANCEMENTS

- On February 4, President Biden released a [memorandum](#) to advance the human rights of LGBTQ and intersex people worldwide.
- On February 4, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and Rep. Rosa DeLauro reintroduced (D-CT) the FAMILY Act (HR 804/S 248) bill, which [creates](#) a national paid family and medical leave insurance program. Tell your members of Congress to [support this critical legislation](#).
- On February 8, Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) [introduced the SECURE Act \(S 306\)](#), which provides a path to citizenship for people with Temporary Protected Status (TPS). TPS allows immigrants to live and work in the US if they cannot return to their home nations because of conflict or natural disasters.
- On February 11, the administration announced it would prohibit housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity under the Fair Housing Act. Additionally, the administration announced it would investigate complaints against gay, nonbinary, trans, and other LGBTQ individuals dating back to January 20, 2020 — retroactive for one year under the current statute of limitations. This directive will revoke a proposed rule, [opposed by NCJW](#), under President Trump that was never finalized.
- **American Rescue Plan:** Last week, the House and Senate passed a budget resolution with instructions and House Committees began marking up their pieces of the \$1.9 trillion. NCJW priority issues that are currently present in the draft include:
 - increased vaccine distribution
 - relief checks
 - paid-leave benefits
 - funding for state and local governments

- rental assistance
- \$15 minimum wage
- extended unemployment benefits.

Committees are expected to finish their business this week, with a floor vote in the House on February 22. [Keep up the calls to your lawmakers](#) to ensure NCJW's priorities are in the final package.

Nominations:

- The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Budget Committees held hearings on the nomination of Neera Tanden to lead the Office of Management and Budget. The next steps include votes in both committees. Merrick Garland, President Biden's nominee for Attorney General, has a hearing scheduled in the Senate Judiciary Committee beginning on February 22. The committee will vote to advance Garland's nomination on March 1.

See the full list of NCJW's First 100 Day Priorities [here](#).



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