

**Unaccompanied Minors: Refugees Seeking Safety**

 Each year, thousands of children from Central America embark on a dangerous trek to the United States, often at the mercy of human smugglers and traffickers. Extreme violence, lack of opportunities and the desire to reunite with family members compel them to travel north, without a parent or guardian.

 I write with deep concern for the children and families fleeing violence in Central America. I urge you to support measures addressing the root causes compelling them to flee.

 Many children in Central America lack educational and economic opportunities, and ultimately flee because of violence from organized criminal networks.

**What we ask you for:**

* **Development assistance**: Fully support the administration’s request for development assistance.
* **Vocational Training for teens in Central America**: Provide children with security and life options by helping children from gang-ridden communities learn valuable life and vocational skills.
* **Ensure safe conditions for in-country refugee resettlement** processing in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.
* **Fully support the administration’s request that the Office of Refugee Resettlement** receive, place, and provide social and legal services to unaccompanied children seeking refuge in the United States.
* **Oppose congressional efforts to strip away each child’s right to a day in court** and other Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act protections for these children.
* **Consider community-support alternatives to detention** for vulnerable migrant mothers and children.

We ask you to care for these unaccompanied children who are Refugees Seeking Safety when they arrive in our country but also to help their countries become a safer home for them, so they don’t have to flee.

Sincerely,

**Local Address:**