

# Embrace Syrian refugees, open U.S. doors



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Syrian refugees should be allowed into the United States. It is this country’s job to show compassion and give support to those in need.

Due to the recent Paris attacks, where it was discovered that at least one of the terrorists came into the country posing as a Syrian refugee, the United States has been weary of incoming refugees. Yet, turning away refugees and making immigration more complicated is not the answer.

A bill passed by the House of Representatives on Nov. 19 suspends the program that was designed to allow Syrians into America until security agencies can be clear that they do not pose a risk.

This puts into question what U.S. political parties stand for. Many Republicans seem to follow the Bible, yet they are restricting these poor, weak and broken refugees from coming into the country who need a safe place to stay. That is going against the very beliefs that they claim to follow.

On the opposite side, Democrats are supposed to be the party that stands up for the lower classes and has been standing up for immigration in the past. Both parties being controlled by fear so much as to

make a rash decision to slow the process of allowing in the widows and orphans from Syria.

In Texas, Greg Abbott has stated his opinion on the subject by claiming that Syrians are too much of a security risk and that they should not be allowed into the United States at all. Abbott is so against letting Syrians in, that he wrote a letter to President Obama voicing his opinion about how Syrians will expose U.S. citizens to danger. Abbott thus made Texas one of the 31 U.S. Governors who will not accept refugees into their state. According to NBC news, he has recently sued the U.S. relief agency for letting in six refugees, who had been security checked, into Dallas.

While security is important, not every Syrian is a terrorist. Abbott has no right to sue or to send these people back. Most are just families who were caught up in a war that destroyed the place they knew as home.

A part of the issue that no one seems to notice so far is how this has happened before. History has already begun to repeat itself through the refugee issue.

Back before World War II began, a boat named the St. Louis sailed from Germany to Cuba in hope of seeking refuge from the Germans. The boat carried more than 900 passengers and when Cuba only allowed 28 passengers in, they denied the rest entry. The passengers on the St. Louis turned to the United States for shelter but were turned away again and forced to return to Europe. Half of the passengers were able to find refuge in other European countries. Of the 532 passengers forced back to Germany, only 278 survived the Holocaust.

This mistake could have been avoided if the United States had let in the refugees. The leaders of this country are deciding that they know best even though the result has already been played out in the past.

Turning away Syrians means that our own leaders have learned nothing. If Syrians are not allowed in, then we are making the same mistakes.

A big reason for this fear of Syrian terrorists started a while back when 9/11 was first attacked. The fear was built upon over the years and reached a high point when ISIS stepped in. ISIS began terrorizing the middle east and threatened the west with the murders of American journalist in late 2014. When the Paris attacks took place, this fear was ignited. According to CNN, at least one of the terrorist in the attacks came to France, posing as a refugee. While this is terrifying, it should not lead to the refusal of these refugees.

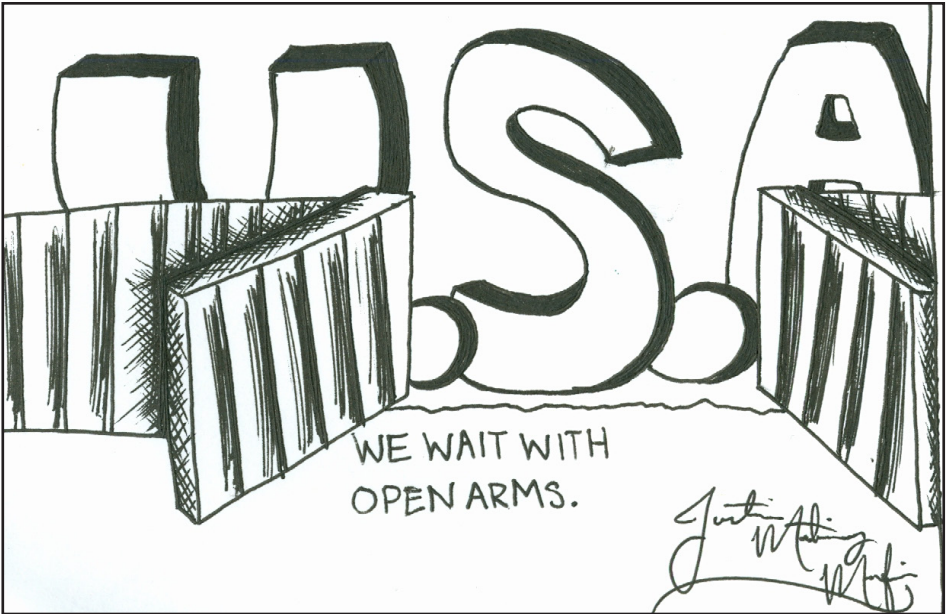
The United States is scared that it will be targeted by the terrorist group ISIS and letting refugees in will worsen the matter. Yet the truth remains that the United States is always a target of terrorist attacks and stopping refugees will not stop any attack from happening. Look at what happened during 9/11, the United States was attacked while the terrorist were

unprovoked. With the United States being a powerhouse, we will always be under threat and that has nothing to do with refugees.

While the fear is understandable, we have no right to turn away people in need. If the situation were reversed, how could it be fair for every U.S. citizen to be looked at as a terrorist, when only one small group is wanting a war. We will never be safe from terrorist because they could attack us at any minute. We cannot let our fear of the worst fuel our decisions.

The inevitable fact is that the United States will always be a target for terrorist attacks.

The fear of refugees is unnecessary and it is time to embrace the refugees who need a safe place to stay. The United States must show compassion for these refugees. Texas itself needs to improve on this situation since Abbott is too ignorant to see the truth. There must be justice and protection for refugees who are being forced out of this state by a man who shows little understanding or compassion towards others.



# Syrian refugees threaten U.S. safety



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Syrian refugees should not be allowed into the United States. The shelter of possible terrorists is not worth the safety and well-being of ourselves and of our families.

Recent terrorist attacks have sparked a controversial debate on whether or not Syrian refugees should be allowed to take shelter in the United States. After experiencing a rise in conflict in their country, millions of Syrian refugees are seeking shelter in other countries, including the United States. However, the discovery that a terrorist was able to disguise himself as a Syrian Refugee in order to sneak into Paris to commit terrorist attacks has the United States skeptical of letting in other refugees.

The decision to take in thousands of potential terrorists is irresponsible and

could be extremely dangerous to citizens. The details behind the recent attack are still under investigation, as are the possibilities of future attacks that might include the United States. The fact is that we are completely unaware of the scope of the potential danger and when it comes down to terrorism, we simply cannot take any chances.

Texas is one of 31 states in the United States that are resisting any potential action to let refugees into their States. Only seven states are open about their willingness to take in refugees. If more than half of the country is against it, why are we still going through with it? Again, we are unprepared and unable to handle the situation. The states are unaware of any possible ties that the incoming Syrian refugees might have to ISIS and terrorism, therefore, it is unsafe to force states to take in refugees.

The United States already has enough problems without having to take in thousands of potential terrorists. The shortage of good-paying jobs, the number of citizens without medical coverage, and an already overburdened public education system are all problems that will only get worse. Immigration remains an unresolved issue, with so many opposed to giving free housing, food, and education to the thousands of undocumented immigrants already residing in the United States. We cannot afford to take in even more people when our own citizens are struggling.

People say it is inhumane not to accept the refugees who are literally fleeing for their lives, but the United States must put its people first. Citizens have their own families to worry about taking care of. Some think the situation will escalate into another “Red Scare.” Leaders will not let it go that far, but barriers designed to protect the U.S. citizens are essential. The United States has learned from those past mistakes.

The decision to let them in should wait until the investigation was over and only then should States vote to take action. If the United States were to discuss the situation with other countries,

we could team up to provide shelter to the refugees that have been fleeing the country to save their own lives. The States that will agree to take in refugees should conduct thorough background checks on each individual entering the country to prevent any future terrorist attacks. After undergoing a thorough background check, states should carefully monitor immigrants and limit the amount of money used on refugees to avoid putting the United States further in debt, while still putting our own citizens first. The protection of United States citizens is essential.

