



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-02892**

BY: **MR. HEHR (CALGARY CENTRE)**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 7, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **HONOURABLE AHMED HUSSEN**

Response by the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Immigration

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the United States involves cooperation in the examination of refugee status claims from nationals of third countries. This is based on the principle, supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), that people should claim asylum in the first safe country in which they arrive. Similar agreements are used by countries around the world to efficiently assess asylum claims.

The *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA) requires the continual monitoring of conditions that led to the designation of the United States as a safe third country. Review criteria include its asylum policies and practices with respect to obligations under the Refugee Convention and the Convention Against Torture, as well as its human rights record. As part of its review, Canada continuously monitors and tracks developments in the United States as they evolve.

The Government of Canada has analyzed recent developments in the United States, including recent Executive Orders, and considers that the United States remains a safe country for asylum claimants to seek protection.

For this reason, the Government of Canada will not be suspending the Safe Third Country Agreement at this time. It will continue to closely monitor developments in the United States according to the factors set out in the IRPA.

The Government of Canada is committed to providing protection to those fleeing persecution, terror, and war. Under the law, anyone claiming asylum in Canada has the right to due process. Every eligible refugee protection claim is decided by a member of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, based on the evidence, testimony, and individual merits of the claim, and in accordance with Canada's immigration laws.