



Update: Will Congress take action?

Congress is back from summer recess and scheduled to wrap up some unfinished legislation before the November elections. You may be wondering what impact, if any their work will have on our brothers and sisters who are witnessing firsthand the devastation of war, climate change, and vulnerability to human trafficking.

Here is a quick update on where things stand on these issues:

- **Ending the war in Syria and aiding refugees-** a fragile ceasefire began on September 12 allowing for trapped civilians to receive life-saving assistance. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services are grateful for any reduction in violence and call on Congress to ensure that vital assistance to vulnerable populations is robustly funded without interruptions or delays.
- **Caring for people impacted by climate change during this Season of Creation-** it looks like Congress will pass a continuing resolution to keep the government running, and in doing so, funding from the Green Climate Fund should be included. The Green Climate Fund will underwrite important efforts to help poor communities adapt to the challenges brought on by climate change.
- **Human Trafficking-** the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act (S. 1968/H.R. 3226) is still before the Senate Banking and House Financial Services committees. Thanks to your efforts, a steady number of cosponsors have been added, but more are needed to keep this bill alive! Unfortunately, we expect no action by either committee until after the November elections.