

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
Vice President of the United States

*Submitted via email*

March 10, 2022

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris:

For nearly two years the U.S. government has ruthlessly blocked and expelled people seeking protection at the southern border without allowing them to apply for asylum, as U.S. and international law requires. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began expulsions under the Trump administration using orders by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - the first of which was [issued](#) on March 20, 2020. To our dismay the Biden-Harris administration has not only failed to end this illegal and unjustifiable policy but [renewed](#), [defended](#), and [expanded](#) it with [illegal](#) expulsions now being carried out to Brazil, [Colombia](#), El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and Mexico. In the wake of the recent court rulings, we call on your administration to immediately end the Title 42 policy, stop defending this illegal and inhumane policy in court, restore meaningful access to asylum at U.S. borders, and welcome with dignity the families and individuals seeking protection in the United States.

The litany of Title 42's horrors is nearly too awful to enumerate. During your administration alone:

- at least [8,705](#) reports of kidnapping, rape, trafficking, torture, and other attacks on people blocked in or expelled to Mexico under Title 42 by your administration, including LGBTQ, Black, and Indigenous asylum seekers targeted by cartels and corrupt officials;
- refugees refouled to the countries where they had fled [persecution](#) and torture in [violation](#) of U.S. law and treaty obligations;
- at least [20,000](#) Haitian families and individuals, including asylum seekers, expelled or deported, to increasing danger in Haiti many without a chance to request asylum;
- [thousands](#) of children sent alone across the border to the United States by families expelled under Title 42 desperate to protect them from harm while stranded in Mexico; and
- more than [90,000](#) expulsions at the southern border without due process, on average, each month - more than twice the monthly average of expulsions carried out under President Trump.

This policy has never been about public health: your administration is using Title 42 to single out and block people requesting protection in the United States at the same time as it has lifted travel restrictions for other travelers. [Senior CDC scientists](#) objected to the Title 42 order when it was issued under the Trump administration. [Leading](#) epidemiologists and [medical](#) experts have [repeatedly affirmed](#) that the policy undermines public health and have [published](#) rational, science-based measures to safely process people seeking protection at the border. But your administration has chosen to ignore these recommendations. Instead, DHS continues to turn away people seeking life-saving asylum protection along the border, including at ports of entry, while vaccinated tourists and shoppers can [now](#) enter the United States through these same ports.

The continued use of Title 42 is spurring [disorder](#) and undermining security at the border. Rapid expulsions without legal process have resulted in massive increases in repeat border crossings, and the failure to comply with asylum law at ports of entry has pushed asylum seekers to undertake increasingly [deadly](#) border crossings. [Cuban, Haitian](#), Nicaraguan, Venezuelan and other people seeking asylum, who

largely [sought](#) asylum at ports of entry, are now [overwhelmingly](#) crossing away from official crossing points.

The Title 42 policy is a stain on the conscience of the United States. [Former](#) and [current](#) government officials, [members](#) of [Congress](#), [federal courts](#), and [UNHCR](#) have sounded the same urgent alarm: the Title 42 policy [violates](#) domestic law and international treaty obligations to protect refugees from forced return to persecution and torture. The continued use of the Title 42 policy indelibly marks your administration as complicit in human rights abuses on a massive scale.

The United States encourages other countries to uphold refugee law and welcome people fleeing across borders in search of protection, including those now forced to flee Ukraine. We urge your administration to lead by example and uphold refugee law at U.S. borders.

CC: Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Department of Homeland Security  
Secretary Xavier Becerra, Department of Health and Human Services  
Secretary Antony Blinken, Department of State  
Ambassador Susan Rice, Domestic Policy Council  
Advisor Jake Sullivan, National Security Council

Respectfully,

A I Justice  
Action Secours Ambulance (ASA)  
Advocating Opportunity  
Afghan Diaspora for Equality and Progress  
Afghans For A Better Tomorrow  
African Advocacy Network  
African Communities Together  
Al Otro Lado  
Albergue Tochan-Nuestra Casa  
Alianza Americas  
Alianzas, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington - VA  
Alma Migrante  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Immigration Council  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
Americans for Immigrant Justice  
Angry Tias and Abuelas  
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)  
Apoyo Legal Migrante Asociado (ALMA)  
Arab American Family Services  
Arizona Justice For Our Neighbors  
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach  
Asociación Civil Venezolanos en Córdoba Argentina  
Asociación Colectiva en Apoyo a las Movilidades y Migraciones Libres y Elegidas en Mesoamérica "COLIBRES-ERMUA"  
Asociación Coordinadora Comunitaria de Servicios para la Salud "ACSS"

Asociación La Alianza  
Asociación Pop No'j  
Asylum Access  
Asylum Access Mexico  
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)  
Asylum Seeker Network of Support, Inc.  
Ayuda  
Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action - Maryland  
Border Network for Human Rights  
Border Organizing Project  
Bridges Faith Initiative  
Caleidoscopio Humano  
California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice  
California Institute for Rural Studies  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation  
Canada Venezuela Democracy Forum  
CAREF  
Casa del Migrante en Tijuana, A.C.  
Casa Monarca. Humanitarian Aid for migrants  
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.  
Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami  
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for the Protection of Refugees and International Migrants (CEPREMI)  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Central American Resource Center of Northern CA - CARECEN SF  
Centro de derechos Humanos de la universidad Católica Andrés Bello  
Centro de Estudios de Guatemala  
Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales  
Centro Legal de la Raza  
Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional (CEJIL)  
Chicago Jewish Coalition for Refugees  
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN)  
Children's HealthWatch  
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice  
Church World Service  
Church World Service - Lancaster  
Civilis Derechos Humanos  
Clínica Jurídica de Migrantes y Refugiados UDP  
Coalición por Venezuela  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad (CCTI)  
Colectivo de Observación y Monitoreo de Derechos Humanos en el Sureste Mexicano  
Colectivo de Solidaridad con el pueblo de Honduras  
Colombia Grassroots Support

Comisio de Accion Social Menonita (CASM)  
Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CMDPDH)  
Comite de Solidaridad y Derechos Humanos Monseñor Romero  
Community Asylum Seekers Project  
Community Change Action  
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto  
Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim  
Comunidades Sin Fronteras CFS - CT INC  
Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants  
Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento-CODHES.  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
Cuerpo Académico Procesos Transnacionales y Migración BUAP-CA-230  
Denver Justice and Peace Committee (DJPC)  
Detention Watch Network  
Dignidad y Justicia en el Camino A.C "FM4 Paso Libre"  
Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries  
Doctors for America  
Doctors for Camp Closure  
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant  
Education and Leadership Foundation  
El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos  
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights  
Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación ERIC  
Espacio Migrante  
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project  
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM) Action  
Faith in New York  
Familias Unidas en Acción  
Families For Freedom  
Family Violence Appellate Project  
Fellowship Southwest  
First Focus on Children  
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project  
Florida Immigrant Coalition  
Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC)  
Forging Opportunities for Refugees in America  
Formación y Capacitación A.C.  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freedom for Immigrants (FFI)  
Freedom Network USA  
FRENTE Nacional de Inmigrantes  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Fundacion Aguavlara  
Fundación Nakama's  
Galveston-Houston Immigrant Representation Project  
GirlForward  
Global Exchange

Global Justice Clinic, Washington Square Legal Services  
Global Labor Justice - International Labor Rights Forum (GLJ-ILRF)  
Government Accountability Project  
Granite State Organizing Project  
Gridley House Antiques  
Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA  
Haitian Bridge Alliance  
HI Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
HIAS  
HIAS Pennsylvania  
Hispanic Connection of Southern Indiana  
Hispanic Federation  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC  
Hope Border Institute  
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative  
Human Impact Partners  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas  
Human Rights Institute - San José State University  
Iglesia Luterana Mexicana Pastoral de Migración  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Immigrant Justice Task Force, Wellington UCC  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigrant Rights Action  
Iniciativa Ciudadana región Puebla  
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice  
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti  
Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración (IMUMI)  
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America  
Interfaith Welcome Coalition - San Antonio  
International Mayan League  
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)  
International Rescue Committee  
Jesuit Refugee Service México  
Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice Western Massachusetts  
Jewish Family Service of San Diego  
JRS VENEZUELA  
Just Neighbors Ministry  
Justice Action Center  
Justice for Migrant Women  
Justice For Our Neighbors - El Paso  
Justice For Our Neighbors - North Central Texas  
Justice in Motion  
Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrants (KWESI)  
Kino Border Initiative  
La 72, Hogar - Refugio para personas migrantes  
La Casa de Amistad, South Bend, IN

La Conexion  
La Mesa Boricua De Florida  
La Raza Centro Legal, San Francisco  
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center  
Las Vanders  
Latin Advocacy Network (LATINAN)  
Latinas en Poder  
Law Office of Peggy J. Bristol  
Lawyers for Good Government (LAGG)  
Legal Services for Children  
Lila LGBTQ INC.  
Linn-Benton Rapid Response Team  
LIUNA Local 270  
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice  
Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership  
Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic at Loyola Law School  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Maryland Against ICE Detention  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center  
Michigan United  
Mid-South Immigration Advocates  
Middle Eastern Immigrant and Refugee Alliance  
Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Mississippi Center for Justice  
MomsRising  
Monitor Social A.C.  
Movilidades Libres y Elegidas, A.C.  
Mujeres Unidas y Activas  
National Education Association  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild  
National Lawyers Guild of Los Angeles  
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
National Partnership for New Americans  
Nebraska Appleseed  
Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA)  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Never Again Action  
New Hampshire - Vermont Guatemala Accompaniment Project  
New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)  
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center  
New York Immigration Coalition  
New York Justice for Our Neighbors, Inc.

Nicaragua Center for Community Action  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
OC Rapid Response Network  
One New Education  
OneAmerica  
ONECA  
Open Door Legal  
Orange County Equality Coalition  
Organized Communities Against Deportations  
Our Children Oregon  
Oxfam America  
Partido Liberta y Refundacion  
Pastoral Movilidad Humana  
Perspektyf by Kai Schoenhals  
Physicians for Human Rights  
Presente.org  
ProBAR  
Programa de Asuntos Migratorios Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México  
Progressive Doctors  
Project Lifeline  
Projet Accompagnement Quebec-Guatemala (PAQG)  
PROMEDEHUM AC  
Promise Institute for Human Rights, UCLA School of Law  
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator  
Public Law Center  
Puentes de Cristo  
Quixote Center  
RAICES  
Rainbow Beginnings  
Red Jesuita con Migrantes Centroamérica y Norteamérica, RJM CANA  
Red Jesuita con Migrantes LAC  
Refugee Action Network  
Refugee Congress  
Refugee Education & Adventure Challenge (REACH)  
RefugeeOne  
Refugees International  
Revolve Impact  
RMIAN  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
Salud integral para la Mujer  
San Joaquin College of Law  
Save the Children  
Save the Children Mexico  
SB County Immigrant Legal Defense Center  
Scalabrinianas Misión con Migrantes y Refugiados - SMR  
Secretariado Cristiano de Solidaridad con America Latina SICSAL  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Service Jésuite aux Migrants-Haïti (SJM-Haïti)  
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)  
Showing Up for Racial Justice  
Southeast Immigrant Rights Network  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
St. Nicholas Catholic Church  
STRANGERS NO LONGER - Michigan  
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Tahirih Justice Center  
Takoma Park Mobilization - Equal Justice  
Taylor Levy Law  
Team Brownsville  
Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition  
Texas Civil Rights Project  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
The Door  
The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights  
The Sidewalk School  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants  
UndocuBlack Network  
Unidos Bridging Community  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice  
UNITE HERE  
UNITED SIKHS  
United We Dream  
Universidad Veracruzana  
University of San Francisco Immigration & Deportation Defense Clinic  
University of Texas at Austin  
Vermont Interfaith Action  
Voice for Refuge Action Fund  
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)  
Watsonville Law Center, Nonprofit Legal Services CA Central Coast  
We Are All America  
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration  
Wilson Immigration  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center  
Witness at the Border  
Women's Refugee Commission  
World Refugee Day Chicago  
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights