



we are one family under God

Reflecting on the First 100 Days of the Biden Administration

As Catholics, we believe that every person has the right to a safe and dignified life. While the Catholic Church recognizes the right of nations to maintain their borders, it equally affirms the right to migrate and the need for fair, orderly, and stable legal pathways. The work of Justice for Immigrants (JFI) members is inspired by and conducted in light of these teachings. The coalition welcomes many of the migration-related executive actions taken by the Biden Administration in its first 100 days. Several of the [recommendations](#) put forth by the coalition prior to Inauguration Day have been realized, but there is still much that remains to be done in order to improve and modernize our immigration system. Cooperation with Congress is also necessary to achieve the full range of reforms needed. The following document highlights some of the positive actions taken by the Administration thus far, as well as items that require further action. Outstanding recommendations have been updated to reflect the current realities facing migrants.

Guarantee Just and Humane Border Policies

The Administration has...

- Begun a staged rollback of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP);
- Suspended Asylum Cooperative Agreements;
- Terminated the national emergency declaration used to construct a wall along the southern border; and
- Restarted the Central American Minors (CAM) program.

We urge the Administration to...

- End Title 42 expulsions and allow asylum seekers who have been expelled the opportunity to present their claims in the U.S.;
- Restore due process and ensure that asylum seekers have speedy access to credible fear interviews by fully qualified personnel and are fully apprised of their rights under domestic and international law;
- Increase humanitarian aid to the border to provide for the needs of unaccompanied children and asylum seekers; and
- Ensure any DHS-operated short-term processing facility and Border Patrol holding facilities used to process into the U.S. both people with current asylum cases and recent arrivals adhere to strict standards in order to maintain the health, safety, and wellbeing of all migrants in DHS custody.

Ensure Access to Lawful Status and Citizenship

The Administration has...

- Preserved and fortified Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA);
- Rescinded bans on migration from certain Muslim-majority countries;
- Reestablished the region-based allocation categories for refugee resettlement;
- Restored longstanding public charge guidance; and
- Designated Venezuela and Myanmar (Burma) for Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

We urge the Administration to...

- Work toward resettling as many of the 65,200 refugees for the revised 2021 Presidential Determination (PD) as possible during this fiscal year, with an annual goal of 125,000 thereafter, and ensure that partners in the U.S. refugee resettlement community have the cooperation and support necessary to meet the needs of arriving refugees;
- Address significant processing delays at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), especially for religious worker (R-1) visas, Employment Authorization Documents (EADs), and petitions filed by unaccompanied children seeking Special Immigrant Juveniles (SIJ) humanitarian protection; and
- Work with Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform, giving particular attention to DACA recipients, TPS and Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) holders, agricultural workers, and other essential workers.

- Prioritize family unity by establishing a return-after-deportation program, the mission of which would be to return people to the U.S. who have already been deported—and pose no community or national security threats—in order to reunite them with their families.

Reform Enforcement and End Mass Detention

The Administration has...

- Established an Interagency Task Force on the Reunification of Families; and
- Revoked Executive Order (EO) 13768 of January 25, 2017 (“Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States”) and reversed the prior administration’s “zero-tolerance” policy.

We urge the Administration to...

- Recognize the existence of families and longstanding community members as preeminent mitigating factors in decisions regarding removal and deportation at the U.S. border and in the U.S. interior;
- Invoke wide discretion to limit deportations while conducting a full-scale study of current practices to develop recommendations for transforming enforcement policies and practices of ICE and CBP;
- Develop DHS guidelines to ensure that families and longstanding community members and residents are not targeted for removal; and
- Expand the use of not-for-profit, community-based alternatives to detention (ATD), end contracts with for-profit detention providers, and eliminate family detention in the U.S.

Address Root Causes of Migration from Central America

The Administration has...

- Conducted some initial consultations with civil society to develop a comprehensive regional framework to address the causes of migration;
- Activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs in the northern countries of Central America; and
- Proposed \$861 million for Central America in its Fiscal Year 2022 discretionary budget request to address a broad range of root causes.

We urge the Administration to...

- Develop a just and humane foreign policy strategy toward the northern countries of Central America, and engage in robust consultation with civil society, including local and indigenous communities and human rights and faith-based organizations as part of a full and critical review of current macroeconomic development and security strategies;
- Predicate all economic and security assistance to governments , as well as international investment in the northern countries of Central America, on adherence to international human rights standards, environmental protections, and absolute transparency and accountability;
- Support national and international mechanisms that justly combat corruption and impunity; and
- Ensure development assistance is not used for large-scale and export-driven projects, but instead prioritize integral human development to end poverty, inequality, hunger and disease, and cultivate just societies rooted in human rights. All projects and investments should adhere to environmental, human rights, and labor obligations. No projects should displace communities or negatively impact the environment or indigenous and community rights.

