

August 2, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

The undersigned 203 civil, human rights, and immigrant rights organizations write in the wake of the U.S. District Court's [decision](#) in the *East Bay Sanctuary Covenant* case, pertaining to your administration's "Circumvention of Lawful Pathways" [rule](#) ("asylum ban"), to urge your administration to withdraw your recently filed appeal and stay motion and accept the court's decision as final. More than 290 organizations [wrote](#) to express [alarm](#) when this policy was first announced at the start of this year, along with nearly [80 members of Congress](#) echoing our distress. Tens of thousands of organizations and individuals submitted [public comments](#) opposing the ban, including many [Black-led](#), [Indigenous](#), [Latinx](#), [civil rights](#), and [LGBTQ+](#) organizations, the [U.N. Refugee Agency](#) (UNHCR), the union representing [asylum officers](#) who have now been forced to implement the illegal ban, former [immigration judges](#), major labor [unions](#), and [members of Congress](#).

Your administration's continued fight to uphold this unlawful ban on appeal flies in the face of the values and promises you held high when defending the [right to seek asylum](#) on the campaign trail. We call on you to adjust course, comply with the federal court order, and immediately end this policy. Every day the asylum ban remains intact, it inflicts immeasurable harm on people in urgent need of protection.

The court's decision leaves no room for doubt that the asylum ban is unlawful and cannot stand. While Biden administration officials have inaccurately [touted](#) it as "working," the grim reality is that the asylum ban is a [refugee protection](#), humanitarian, and legal travesty. In just two months since its implementation, the ban has stranded vulnerable people in parts of Mexico where they are targets of kidnapping and violent assaults, rigged the credible fear process against people seeking asylum, and deported many without meaningful access to counsel, despite potential eligibility for asylum under U.S. law. [Black](#), [Indigenous](#), [Latinx](#), and [LGBTQ+](#) people waiting to seek asylum in the United States, as well as those without financial resources, face particular and egregious barriers, dangers, and disparities in seeking asylum due to the asylum ban.

U.S. immigration law is already replete with unduly harsh consequences. Imposing punishments on vulnerable people who may be eligible for asylum under our laws is inhumane and bolsters xenophobic [narratives](#) that falsely paint people seeking asylum as threats. We are troubled and perplexed by the counterproductive and inaccurate attempts to tout the asylum ban as responsible for the recent decrease in migrant crossings between ports of entry. In reality, this shift can be

attributed to effective steps you have taken to bring more individuals to safety, such as ending the illegal Title 42 policy, which spurred repeat crossings, expanding additional safe pathways, and restoring some access to asylum at ports of entry. The attempts to frame the ban as a success are also at odds with the harsh reality that many of our [organizations have witnessed](#) working closely with people waiting in Mexico to seek asylum following the ban's implementation. A policy that strands vulnerable people in perilous conditions cannot be described as "working." A policy that results in the deportation of individuals with meritorious asylum claims to countries where they face persecution, in violation of our laws, cannot be heralded a success.

We urge your administration to end the asylum ban and redouble your focus on effective, humane, and legal solutions, including to: strengthen and provide equitable access to your administration's parole initiatives; fully restore asylum processing capacity at ports of entry including for people who do not have CBP One appointments; end the practice of subjecting individuals to fear screenings while in CBP custody; work with Congress to adequately fund immigration court and USCIS asylum adjudications as well as reception efforts in U.S. communities; and improve your asylum processing rule by eliminating counterproductive unworkable deadlines. Your administration has repeatedly indicated that its asylum ban would only be "temporary." Given the judge's clear finding that the ban is unlawful and the harm the policy has already caused, we implore you to adjust course and rescind the ban now before even more human—and legal—damage is inflicted.

Sincerely,

#WelcomeWithDignity

Acacia Center for Justice

Afghan-American Community Organization (AACO)

Afghans For A Better Tomorrow

African Advocacy Network

African Communities Together (ACT)

African Human Rights Coalition

Al Otro Lado

Aldea - The People's Justice Center

Alianza Americas

America's Voice

American Gateways

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

American Immigration Council

American Immigration Lawyers Association

Americans for Immigrant Justice

Amnesty International USA

Annunciation House  
Ansara Family Fund  
Arkansas United  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta  
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)  
Ayuda  
AZ Immigration Alliance  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action  
Beyond Borders, Inc  
Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)  
Border Kindness  
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC  
California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice  
Capital District Border Watch  
Carroll Gardens Association  
Casa San José  
CATA - The Farmworker Support Committee  
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Center for Democracy in the Americas  
Center for Immigration Law and Policy, UCLA School of Law  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN-NY)  
Central American Resource Center - DC  
Central American Resource Center - CARECEN - of California  
Central American Resource Center of Northern CA - CARECEN SF  
Chacón Center for Immigrant Justice at UMD Carey Law  
Church Women United in New York State  
Church World Service  
Cleveland Jobs with Justice  
Coalición de Derechos Humanos  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Columbia Law School Immigrants' Rights Clinic  
Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim  
Community Change Action  
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA)  
Communities United for Status & Protection (CUSP)

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Deported Asylum Seekers Assistance Project  
Detention Watch Network  
Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services, Inc.  
Dominican Sisters of Peace  
Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House, Washington DC  
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving  
East Bay Refugee and Immigrant Forum  
ECDC  
El Calvario Immigrant Advocacy Center  
Faithful America  
Families for Freedom  
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project  
Florida Immigrant Coalition  
Forward Latino  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freedom for Immigrants (FFI)  
Freedom Network USA  
Futures Without Violence  
Haitian Bridge Alliance  
Haitian Women's Collective  
Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program  
HIAS  
Hispanic Federation  
Hope Border Institute  
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas  
Human Rights Watch  
Ignatian Solidarity Network  
Immigrant Defenders Law Center  
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Immigration Equality  
Immigration Hub  
Immigration Institute of the Bay Area  
Immigration Law & Justice Network  
Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy (ISLA)  
Indivisible

Innovation Law Lab  
Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti  
Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA)  
Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migracion (IMUMI)  
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America  
Interfaith Welcome Coalition - San Antonio  
International Mayan League  
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)  
International Rescue Committee  
InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
Jericho Road Community Health Center  
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA  
Jesuits of the US Central and Southern Province  
JFCS East Bay  
Journey's End Refugee Services  
Justice Action Center  
Justice for Migrant Women  
Justice in Motion  
Just Neighbors  
Kids in Need of Defense  
Kino Border Initiative  
La Raza Community Resource Center  
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center  
Latin America Working Group EF  
Law Offices of Martinez, Nguyen & Magana  
Legal Aid Justice Center  
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice  
Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic, Loyola Law School in Los Angeles  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA)  
Mariposa Legal, program of COMMON Foundation  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
Midwest Immigration Bond Fund  
Minnesota Freedom Fund  
Mobile Pathways  
Muslim Advocates  
NAKASEC  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Employment Law Project  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project (NIPNLG)  
National Lawyers Guild-San Francisco Bay Area chapter  
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR)  
National Partnership for New Americans  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New York Law School Asylum Clinic  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
Oasis Legal Services  
OLA of Eastern Long Island  
OneJustice  
Our Children Oregon  
Oxfam America  
Pax Christi New Jersey  
Physicians for Human Rights  
Project ANAR  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)  
Public Counsel  
Public Law Center  
Quixote Center  
RAICES  
Rapid Response Network of Kern County  
Red Jesuita con Migrantes LAC  
Refugee Congress  
Refugee Council USA  
Refugee Health Alliance  
Refugees International  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network  
Sanctuary for Families  
Save the Children  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team  
Social Justice Collaborative  
Southern Border Communities Coalition  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
The Bronx Defenders

The Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network  
The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law's Immigrant and Refugee  
Advocacy Clinic  
The Children's Partnership  
The Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans  
The Workers Circle  
Tsuru for Solidarity  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)  
UndocuBlack Network  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice  
Unitarian Universalist Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education  
United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1445  
United We Dream  
University of Detroit Mercy Immigration Law Clinic  
University of San Francisco Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic  
USC Gould School of Law Immigration Clinic  
Washington Defender Association  
Washington Office on Latin America  
We Are All America  
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center  
Witness at the Border  
Women's Refugee Commission  
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

cc: Hon. Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States  
Hon. Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
Hon. General Merrick Garland, Attorney General, Department of Justice  
Hon. Antony Blinken, Secretary, Department of State  
Jeffrey Zients, White House Chief of Staff  
Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor  
Neera Tanden, Director, Domestic Policy Council