

December 9, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

Presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador
Palacio Nacional
Ciudad de México, México

RE: U.S. and Mexican Catholic organizations call for immediate, complete end to Migrant Protection Protocols and fair access to asylum for all

President Biden and President López Obrador,

We are deeply troubled by the U.S. and Mexican governments reimplementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP). The undersigned U.S. and Mexican Catholic organizations working in immigration law, policy, and services urge you to work together to end MPP and the misuse of Title 42 to ensure fair access to asylum for all those seeking protection from violence and persecution.

It is shocking that the U.S. has decided to move forward with reimplementation of MPP and expand it to countries such as Haiti. The consequences this policy has on the safety, dignity, and rights of asylum-seekers arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border are immense and devastating. In his [message](#) on the 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis calls on us as Catholics to move towards an “ever wider we.” An accessible, welcoming, and just asylum system is necessary for the United States to respond to this sacred call to action.

We call on the U.S. to end this deadly policy as quickly as possible and to put forth a plan for accountability, including any and all steps necessary to ensure that MPP, or anything like it, never happens again. Like the previous U.S. administration’s family separation policy, MPP caused horrifying and permanent harm to people in deeply vulnerable situations. While the damage can never be undone, we must take immediate and concrete steps now to recognize the dignity and humanity of asylum seekers in both words and action.

In addition to MPP, Catholic organizations in the U.S. and Mexico again call on the U.S. to end Title 42. The recently-announced decision to [lift travel restrictions](#) to the United States for vaccinated individuals further emphasizes the lack of validation for this policy. Instead of turning asylum-seekers away, and perhaps sending them to their death, the U.S. should offer COVID-19 vaccines for those who have been unable to access them in countries of origin and allow their asylum cases to proceed. We hope the Mexican government will join us in this call on the Biden administration.

The Holy Father [recently spoke](#) about the need to “work together through solidarity and subsidiarity in order to build a better society and emerge better from the Covid-19 pandemic.” He says to us all: “You have the ability and the courage to create hope where there appears to be only...exclusion...With your hands, you know how to forge the dignity of each person, of families and of society.”

President Biden and President López Obrador, we hold you in prayer and call on you to create hope by removing the barriers to asylum in your respective countries, including the Migrant Protection Protocols. As Catholic organizations working on the frontlines at our shared border, we stand ready, with outstretched arms, to welcome asylum seekers.

Sincerely,

Acción de Gracia Immigration Assistance
Adorers of the Blood of Christ (ASC)
Adrian Dominican Sister, Catherine DeClercq
Adrian Dominican Sisters, Annette Deslover
Adrian Dominican Sisters, Bonnie Motto, O.P.
Adrian Dominican Sisters, Marie Skebe, OP
Adrian Dominican Sisters, Patricia Stellmah
Adrian Dominican, Sister Carleen Maly, OP
Caminando Juntos - Presentation Sisters Hispanic Ministry
Casa del Migrante en Tijuana, A.C.
CASA REINA
Casa San Jose
Catholic Charities - Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Catholic Charities Diocese of Gary - ISAAC
Catholic Charities Diocese of Laredo
Catholic Charities Diocese of Lubbock
Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, Refugee and Immigration Services
Catholic Charities of Central Texas
Catholic Charities of Jackson, Mississippi
Catholic Charities of North Louisiana
Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro
Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services
Catholic Charities San Diego
Catholic Charities, NY - Immigrant and Refugee Services
Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami
Catholic Sister, Joyce Caulfield, OP
Catholic Social Services of Fall River, MA
Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton
Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez A.C.

Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul USA
Daughters of Wisdom (US Province)
Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services, Inc.
Dominican Sister - Adrian
Dominican Sister, Sister Mary Carr
Dominican Sisters - Grand Rapids
Dominican Sisters of Adrian
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa
Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois
Dominicans
Esperanza Center, Baltimore MD
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
Hispanic Connection of Southern Indiana
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Holy Union Sisters United States Province
Hope Border Institute
Ignatian Solidarity Network
IHM Sisters Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office
Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Clinic, Columbus School of Law, The Catholic University of America
Instituto Libre de Filosofía y Ciencias
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)
Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center
Jesuit Conference Office of Justice & Ecology
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
Kino Border Initiative
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Long Island Immigration Clinic, Sisters of St. Joseph Loretto
NETWORK Lobby For Catholic Social Justice
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Project Hope-Proyecto Esperanza, Srs. of St. Francis, Tiffin, OH
Red Jesuita con Migrantes LAC
Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes México
Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados México
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg
Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, PA
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny Province of USA/Canada

Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood NY
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque IA
Sisters of the Presentation, New Windsor, NY
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton, PA
St. Francis Community Services
U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Westchester, IL Community of Dominican Sisters