



# The Trump Administration's Attacks on Immigrant Communities & Asylum Seekers

## What's going on?

The Trump Administration is shutting the door on asylum seekers at our border and trying to terminate protections for long-standing members of our communities.

Since the "Remain in Mexico" policy (also known as the "Migrant Protection Protocols") began in January 2019, over **60,000 asylum-seeking families, men, women, and children, mostly from Central America**, have been forced to wait in danger in Mexico during their U.S. immigration proceedings. Once in Mexico, migrants are left vulnerable—there have been **1,001 publicly reported** cases of murder, rape, torture, and kidnapping that those waiting have suffered. Most end up living in the few civil society shelters that exist or in makeshift tents in refugee camps along the border. Instead of giving these asylum seekers their fair day in court, **sham virtual courtrooms have been set up** in tent facilities along the border where life-altering decisions are made from thousands of miles away through video conferencing, violating due process. Only about **five percent** of asylum seekers have access to a lawyer under this policy. The Ninth Circuit Court recently issued a ruling that **temporarily blocked** the policy but a federal appeals court sought a stay. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court stepped in, and it ruled against the Ninth Circuit's decision, so the policy will unfortunately **remain in effect** at our southern border for the near future. Metering, another illegal policy, also continues to be implemented across the border, forcing **thousands** of asylum seekers to wait for months along the border to even present themselves at a port of entry.

But that's not all. Our border is also being pushed further south. "Safe Third Country" agreements were signed with Central American countries **that are not safe**. Under these, about **1,000** Salvadoran and Honduran asylum seekers have been deported to Guatemala. The majority of asylum seekers being forcibly returned are women and children, and many have no idea of where they are going when they're **placed on an airplane** or what they will do once they land. They are given **72 hours** and an ultimatum—apply for asylum in Guatemala or return to their home country. Most decide not to apply there and faced with no support, return to the same dangers they were fleeing. And this is only the beginning—it's unclear when these agreements will start being implemented in Honduras and El Salvador.

All of this is in addition to the efforts the Trump Administration has taken to terminate protections for long-standing **members of our communities, the Dreamers and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries**. This past November, the Supreme Court heard arguments on the termination of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA) for the **700,000** Dreamers and is currently deciding whether to uphold this program or separate immigrant families across the country. At the same

time, over 300,000 of our Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS community members have had their status extended for a year thanks to lawsuits through the beginning of January 2021. But they still don't have permanent protections. Both the Dreamers and TPS beneficiaries stand at risk for deportation if permanent solutions aren't found.

## What can you do?

Here's a breakdown of what you can do. If your members of Congress are already on board with these bills and in opposing these policies, then spread the word and share it with friends from out of state!

### CALL your members of Congress.

#### Support bills to overturn policies that shut the door to asylum seekers

- Rep. Escobar (D-TX) introduced H.R. 2662, the Asylum Seeker Protection Act, to defund and end Remain in Mexico. Call your representative to make sure they're supporting it.
- The Refugee Protection Act was introduced in the House (HR. 5210) and Senate (S. 2936)—so call to make sure your representative and senators are supporting their respective bills to ensure fair and humane processing and admission of asylum seekers at the border and resettlement of refugees in Central America.
- Call both your senators and your representative and urge them to defund the “safe third country” or “Asylum Cooperation Agreements” to stop sending asylum seekers back to danger to countries that are far from safe and which are not even their countries of origin.

#### Demand permanent protections for TPS beneficiaries.

- Senator Van Hollen (D-MD) introduced S.879 the SECURE Act which grants TPS beneficiaries permanent protections. Call your senators to make sure they've co-sponsored.

### If you MEET with your members of Congress:

- Express your concern regarding the policies being implemented at the border to shut out asylum seekers, including the Remain in Mexico policy, “safe third country”/ Asylum Cooperation Agreements, and metering, and bring in your own knowledge and experience. Tell them you won't stand for policies that go against our best American values, and that you welcome and value immigrants, so you urge them to do the same.

### Want More Information?

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Here are some resources to check out:

- [All About the “Remain in Mexico” Policy](#)
- [One Year of “Remain in Mexico” Impacts Infographic](#)
- [Forced Return to Danger](#)