UNSAFE THIRD COUNTRY AGREEMENTS

UNSAFE THIRD COUNTRY AGREEMENTS OR ASYLUM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, (ACAS) AS THEY ARE OFFICIALLY CALLED, WERE SIGNED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, AND EL SALVADOR IN 2019. UNDER THE AGREEMENTS, ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE DENIED PROTECTION AT THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER AND RETURNED TO COUNTRIES THEY ARE NOT FROM TO SEEK ASYLUM THERE. IT IS UNSAFE, UNFAIR, AND UNLAWFUL TO FORCIBLY RETURN ASYLUM SEEKERS UNDER THE ACAS.

SGBV: 88% of LGBTQ+ asylum seekers suffered sexual and/or gender-based violence in Central America.²

Femicide: El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala are in the top four countries globally of women murdered.²

Homicide Rates: Honduras had a homicide rate of 41.2 per 100,000 compared to the U.S. at 5 per 100,000.⁵

“If Guatemala was safe, why was my plane full of Guatemalans wanting out in the first place?”¹⁵
- Victor, a Honduran migrant returned to Guatemala under the agreement

Honduras: “Honduras does not have a recent tradition of asylum for refugees.” — UN Refugee Agency

El Salvador: “We don’t have asylum capacities but we can build them.” —President Bukele

Guatemala: “Identification and referral mechanisms for potential asylum seekers were inadequate.” —United States State Department

“The Guatemalan government is completely absent in this whole process. It sends a clear message. The government isn’t here to offer shelter, it’s here to push people out as quickly as possible.”¹⁶
- Director of a migrant shelter in Guatemala

UNFAIR

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UNLAWFUL

U.T. vs Barr

On January 15th the ACLU, National Immigrant Justice Center, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, and Human Rights First filed a lawsuit in the U.S. claiming asylum seekers are unlawfully being removed to Guatemala through the Asylum Cooperative Agreement.⁹

We must STOP and DEFUND these UNSAFE third country agreements.

Sources
2. Measuring Femicide: Challenges and efforts to bolster the process in Latin America and the Caribbean https://bit.ly/32 Ki5Em
4. "3,000 miles, 72 hours, a tough choice: Asylum in Guatemala, or go home?!" https://bit.ly/2Culدن
6. "Our Whole Economy is in Shatters" El Salvador’s President Nayib Bukele on the Problems Facing His Country https://cbsn.ws/36mI0qg
8. "The U.S. is putting asylum seekers on planes to Guatemala — often without telling them where they’re going." https://wapo.st/2C4KbK5