

January 9, 2023

President of the United States Joseph Biden
President of Mexico Andrés Manuel López Obrador
Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau

cc

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken
Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs Marcelo Ebrard
Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly

Dear President Biden, President López Obrador, and Prime Minister Trudeau:

We, the 94 undersigned civil society organizations, are writing ahead of the North American Leaders' Summit (NALS) in Mexico City to urge your administrations to center human rights, humanitarian protection, and access to asylum for individuals fleeing persecution in your discussions regarding regional migration. The summit provides an opportune forum for the U.S., Mexico, and Canada to work together to fulfill the commitment made in the [Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection](#) to “protecting the safety and dignity of all migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons, regardless of their migratory status, and respecting their human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

We urge your governments to:

- Adhere to existing domestic and international agreements by respecting the principle of non-refoulement and access to territory. Take all potential legal steps to **ensure that access to asylum is restored and maintained at borders; that asylum systems are strengthened**, and that **individuals are not unlawfully [pushed back](#), [expelled](#) under policies like Title 42, or [banned](#)** from the opportunity to seek refuge. Asylum should be accessible to all individuals regardless of their nationality, race, legal status or mode of entry.
- **Create and expand supplementary human mobility pathways** to reduce life-threatening risks, gender-based violence and other human rights abuses. Any supplementary pathway—including new US parole programs— must be easily accessible for displaced individuals and should not be tied to policies restricting asylum access.
- Work with governments and subnational authorities along the migratory route to **implement measures to support protection-sensitive entry systems that identify international protection needs and refer individuals into appropriate human mobility pathways**. The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees' [10-Point Plan of Action](#) provides a roadmap for such action. Furthermore, in the case of migrants and asylum seekers at sea, such as in the Caribbean Basin, governments must prioritize safeguarding lives by strengthening search and rescue operations; screening for protection needs; creating supplementary pathways for migrants and asylum seekers at sea, and preventing refoulement by allowing access to territory.
- Continue to **expand the financing and delivery of humanitarian assistance along the migratory route**, including programming to address sexual and gender-based violence against individuals in all their diversity and violence against children, with a particular focus on race and gender-sensitivity and language access for migrants.

- Work with United Nations agencies to ensure that migrants and asylum seekers, including children, **are not returned to unsafe situations or in violation of the principle of non-refoulement.**
- **Counter xenophobia towards LGBTQI+, Black, Brown, and Indigenous migrants and asylum seekers,** through anti-discrimination and anti-racism education and accountability efforts.
- **Investigate and prosecute crimes against migrants,** in particular sexual and gender based violence, **and maintain statistics on crimes and prosecutions** based on gender, race and nationality.
- **Maintain statistics on deaths** through criminal or noncriminal related causes, **based on gender, race and nationality.**
- **Invest in interventions that support marginalized communities, including women, girls, and indigenous groups, to build their economic security and resilience to climate- and insecurity-related factors.**
- **Conduct meaningful and sustained consultation with civil society organizations,** including migrant and refugee-led groups from across the region, **in the implementation of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection.** Prioritize meeting with local service providers, indigenous communities, migrants, and asylum seekers to understand the on-the-ground realities during high-level trips to the region.
- **Provide support as necessary to local communities** who receive and provide services to migrants, especially **indigenous communities.**

We appreciate your consideration and welcome the opportunity to further engage with your administrations.

Sincerely,

ACCSS
 Action Réfugiés Montréal
 Al Otro Lado
 Albergue Decanal Guadalupano
 Albergue Tochan-Nuestra- Casa
 Alianza Americas
 Alianza Peruana de Cooperación
 American Immigration Lawyers Association
 Amnesty International Canada (English Speaking)
 Apoyo a Migrantes Venezolanos
 Asociación Pop No'j / Guatemala
 Asylum Access Mexico (AAMX)
 Bridges Faith Initiative
 BUAP-CA-230 Cuerpo Académico Procesos Transnacionales y Migración
 Caleidoscopio Humano
 Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers
 Canadian Council for Refugees
 Cátedra de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Centroccidental Lisandro Alvarado

Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA)
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
Central American Resource Center —CARECEN SF
Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Católica Andrés Bello
Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo SJ" (CSMM)
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America-CRLN
Citizens For Public Justice
Clínica Jurídica para Refugiados "Alaíde Foppa"
CODETMICH
Colectivo Ustedes Somos Nosotrxs
Comisión de Acción Social Meninita
Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CMDPDH)
Comité Ciudadano en Defensa de los Naturalizados y Afromexicanos (CCDNAM)
Comunidades de Fe Organizadas en Acción de Centro America
Corporación Red Somos
CPAL
CRECEN
El Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración
EMAÚS AMÉRICA
Encuentros Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes
Equipo de Proyectos y Asesoría Social-EDEPA
Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Faith in Action International
Fe y Alegría Panamá
Fundación Agua Sin Fronteras
Fundación Ecuatoriana Equidad
Fundación para la Justicia
Grupo de Trabajo Sobre Política Migratoria-GTPM: Aldeas Infantiles SOS México, I.A.P.; Alianza Américas; American Friends Services Committee; Asylum Access México (AAMX) A.C.; Casa del Migrante Saltillo (Frontera con Justicia A.C.); Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matías de Córdova, A.C.; Coalición Pro Defensa del Migrante de Baja California; Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos; Fundación Appleseed México, A.C.; DHIA. Derechos Humanos Integrales en Acción, A.C.; IMUMI Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración; Iniciativa Ciudadana para la Promoción de la Cultura del Diálogo, A.C.; INSYDE Instituto para la Seguridad y la Democracia; M3 Movimiento Migrante Mesoamericano; REDIM Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México; Save the Children México, Sin Fronteras, IAP; Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes México; Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados; SMR Scalabrinianas: Misión con Migrantes y Refugiados; Leticia Calderón, Analista en temas migratorios; Brenda Valdés; Elba Coria; Manuel Ángel Castillo, Investigador; Gloria Ciria Valdéz Gardea, fundadora y coordinadora del Seminario Niñez Migrante; IDC International Detention Coalition (Observadoras). Claudia Martínez Medrano, Jocelín Mariscal Agreda y Melissa A. Vértiz Hernández, Secretaría Técnica.

Hope Border Institute
Human Rights First / Derechos Humanos Primero
IMDH
Immigrant Defenders Law Center
International Rescue Committee
Justice Action Center
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
Kino Border Initiative / Iniciativa Kino para la Frontera
La 72 Hogar-Refugio para personas migrantes
Laboratório de Estudos de Imigração
Laboratorio de Paz
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
Latinas en Poder
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project (NIPNLG)
Polaris
Programa de Asuntos Migratorios Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México
Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos (Provea)
PROMEDEHUM
Red Jesuita con Migrantes
Red Jesuita con Migrantes de Guatemala
Red Jesuita con Migrantes LAC
Refugee Law Office, Legal Aid Ontario
Refugees International
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
Seminario Niñez Migrante
Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes (Argentina)
Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes (Chile)
Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados (Ecuador)
Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados (JRS) México
Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados para Latinoamérica y El Caribe - JRS LAC
Servicio Jesuita para Migrantes (Costa Rica)
Serviço Jesuíta a Migrantes e Refugiados Brasil
Sin Fronteras IAP
South Texas Human Rights Center
Southern Poverty Law Center
The Advocates for Human Rights
Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México
University of Toronto
Vicentinos en La Frontera/Diáspora

Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
Witness at the Border
Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)