

*Delivered via email*

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,

Asociación Coordinadora Comunitaria Servicios de Salud (ACCS) - Guatemala

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"  
Colectivo Transnacional para el desarrollo de Michoacán (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  
La Conferencia de Provinciales Jesuitas de América Latina y El Caribe (CPAL)  
Central American Resource Center (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

Instituto Migrações e Direitos Humanos (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)  
Promoción Educación Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (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)