

The Honorable Joseph Biden  
President of the United States

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas  
Department of Homeland Security

Amb. Susan Rice  
Domestic Policy Council

Jake Sullivan  
National Security Advisor

Anthony J. Blinken  
Secretary of State

*Submitted via email July 8, 2021*

**Re: Joint Letter to President Biden, DHS, DPC, NSA and DOS on Immediate Protection of Haitians Inside the U.S. and at the Southern Border After Assassination of President Moïse**

Dear President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, Amb. Rice, Advisor Sullivan and Secretary Blinken:

The undersigned 132 human rights, humanitarian, immigration and women's rights organizations come to you in great fear for the people of Haiti after the [assassination](#) of President Jovenel Moïse and serious injury of the first lady, Martine Moïse, at home in the middle of the night.

[Armed gangs control many streets](#) and have been kidnapping civilians, including school children and church pastors in the middle of their services. Now, experts warn that the political vacuum left by President Moïse's assassination could exacerbate the current cycle of violence in Haiti. At this time of great political and social uncertainty, it would be unconscionable and unlawful for the United States to refuse the entry of Haitians seeking protection at the U.S. border or to pursue removal proceedings, detention, deportation or expulsion of any Haitian nationals to conditions that can only be described as dangerous.

The Biden Administration publicly acknowledged the political turmoil and violence overtaking life in Haiti and rightfully redesignated Haiti for temporary protected status (TPS) on May 22, 2021 for an 18-month period. As [DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas](#) said in his TPS announcement,

Haiti is currently experiencing serious security concerns, social unrest, an increase in human rights abuses, crippling poverty, and lack of basic resources, which are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. . . . After careful consideration, we determined that we must do what we can to support Haitian nationals in the United States until conditions in Haiti improve so they may safely return home.

We are grateful that the Administration took this step as it may provide protection to over one hundred thousand Haitians and their U.S. family members living here, but eligible Haitians [still await publication](#) in the Federal Register so that they can apply for TPS. A coherent domestic and foreign policy agenda with Haiti is crucial to ensuring that the rights and protection of Haitians are prioritized through the compassionate [exercise of prosecutorial discretion](#) inside the United States and the application of U.S. asylum law to those seeking refuge at the border. No Haitian should be subjected to expedited removal or reinstatement of removal given the lives at stake and the Biden administration's own assessment of the dangerous conditions in Haiti.

As Paul Pierrilus, who has been in hiding since he was [deported to Haiti](#) in February 2021 even though he was not born in Haiti and is not a Haitian citizen, said today: “If the country is not safe for its own President how can it be safe for someone like me?”

More than one million Haitians and Americans of Haitian descent are part of our American fabric, establishing robust communities in states such as Florida, New York and Massachusetts where more than two-thirds live, and contributing their literature, art, cuisine, and effort to public health and countless businesses and nonprofits across the United States. Thousands more Haitians are [stranded in treacherous conditions](#) in Mexican border towns as they attempt to seek protection in the U.S. but face [insurmountable barriers](#) due to [Title 42. Over two thousand more have been deported under the Biden Administration](#) back to the same conditions that spurred a redesignation of TPS. We urge the Biden Administration to pursue a coherent domestic and foreign policy agenda, stand in solidarity with the Haitian community and immediately implement the following measures:

- Direct Senior Official Performing the Duties of CBP Commissioner Troy A. Miller to instruct CBP agents and officers to issue parole to all Haitians seeking protection at a U.S. border, refer them into INA Sec. 240 removal proceedings, and then ICE attorneys should join a motion to administratively close 240 proceedings and a referral of any asylum claim to the USCIS Asylum Office for adjudication. Mr. Miller should also direct CBP officers and agents to end Title 42 expulsions and deportation flights and process Haitian and other asylum seekers at ports of entry;
- Direct Acting ICE Director Tae D. Johnson and Principal Legal Advisor John D. Trasviña to issue guidance to ICE officers, agents, and trial attorneys to refrain from pursuing removal proceedings or the detention or deportation of Haitian nationals while the country remains in crisis;
- Publish the Haiti TPS redesignation in the Federal Register so that eligible Haitians may apply for protection;
- Employ a presumption against firm resettlement for all newly eligible TPS applicants from Haiti, including those previously deemed firmly resettled by an Immigration Judge. Where applicable, DHS should grant Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) or some other form of deferred action to any Haitian TPS applicant who may ultimately be denied TPS due solely to firm resettlement;
- Reinstate the [Haitian Family Reunification Parole \(HFRP\) Program](#), which allowed certain eligible U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to apply for parole for their family members in Haiti who have approved immigrant visa petitions but who cannot reunite with family members due to the years-long backlog in visa processing.
- Establish a mechanism to support Haitians who were unjustly deported in the past few years to Haiti so that they may be reunited with family and receive the protection of which they were deprived.

Sincerely:

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Patrice Lawrence, Co-Director of UndocuBlack Network, [Patrice@undocublack.org](mailto:Patrice@undocublack.org)

ABISA  
Adhikaar  
African Communities Together  
African Diaspora for Good Governance  
Al Otro Lado

Alabama Coalition for Immigrant justice  
Aldea - The People's Justice Center  
Alianza Americas  
Alternative Chance  
America's Voice  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)  
Americans for Immigrant Justice  
Amnesty International USA  
AMURT-Haiti  
ASISTA  
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)  
Black Alliance for Just Immigration  
Black LGBTQ+ Migrant Project (BLMP)  
Border Network for Human Rights  
Brooklyn Defender Services  
Broward for Progress  
CASA  
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.  
Center for Civic Policy  
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies  
Central American Resource Center of Northern CA - CARECEN SF  
Church World Service  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
CODEPINK  
Colectivo Mujeres Transnacionales  
Community Asylum Seekers Project  
Community Change Action  
Comunidades Unidas  
CRECEN  
Detention Watch Network  
Diaspora Community Services  
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Education Consultant  
Fair Immigration Reform Movement Action (FIRMA)  
Faith in New York  
Faith in Public Life  
Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement  
Families for Freedom  
First Focus on Children  
Florida Council of Churches  
Florida Immigrant Coalition  
Forum on Haitian Migration in the Americas  
Friends of Matènwa  
FWD.us  
Gender Action  
Global Justice Clinic, Washington Square Legal Services  
Guatemaltecos Sin Fronteras  
Haiti Support Group  
Haitian Bridge Alliance  
Hispanic Federation

Hope Border Institute  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas  
Human Rights Watch  
Immigrant Advocacy Network  
Immigrant Defenders Law Center  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota  
Immigrants Rising  
Immigration Hub  
Indivisible  
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH)  
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)  
International Tribunal of Conscience of Peoples in Movement  
Jobs With Justice  
Just Futures Law  
Just Haiti, Inc.  
Justice Action Center  
LA RED, Faith in Action  
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)  
Latinas en Poder  
Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG)  
Lula LGBTQ Inc.  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
Mainers for Accountable leadership  
Make the Road New Jersey  
Make the Road PA  
Michigan People's Campaign  
Michigan United  
Mijente  
MoveOn  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA)  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New American Leaders Action Fund  
New York County Defender Services  
OneAmerica  
Oxfam America  
PICO California  
Piña Soul, SPC  
Poder Latinx  
Positive Women's Network-USA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Presente.org  
Priority Africa Network  
Progressive Leadership Alliance Of Nevada  
Project Blueprint  
Quixote Center  
RAICES

Refugees International  
RITA-Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
SPLC Action Fund  
Strangers No Longer  
Stuart Center JPIC Office  
Texas Civil Rights Project  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
The Bronx Defenders  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants  
UndocuBlack  
Unidos Mn  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
United Stateless  
United We Dream  
University of Glasgow  
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)  
We Are Home  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center  
Witness at the Border  
Women's Refugee Commission  
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights