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NEW: Ahead of SOTU, ASISTA and 26 other Immigrant Rights Organizations Release 2022 Immigration Priorities for the Biden-Harris Administration

New Blueprint Analyzes Year-One Actions and Outlines Critical, Immediate 2022 Measures to Fulfill Administration's Promises for a Fair and Humane Immigration System

Suffield, CT - Ahead of tonight's State of the Union address, ASISTA and 26 additional immigrant rights' organizations released key immigration policy priorities for the Biden-Harris administration, [**2022 Immigration Priorities: A Blueprint for the Biden-Harris Administration**](#), detailing actions that the president should take this year to fulfill his campaign promises for a modern and fair immigration system. The report also provides a review of actions taken by President Biden and Vice President Harris in year one of their administration.

In 2021, the Biden administration laid out an ambitious immigration plan, aiming to reverse or terminate the previous administration's egregious, anti-immigrant policies and deliver policies to humanize, modernize and strengthen America's immigration system. President Biden has implemented dozens of policies that center a humane and safe approach to the system and revoked or eliminated 235 of the 1,000-plus policies put in place by former President Trump. However, important and immediate measures must be aggressively taken this year to reimagine and reform America's immigration system by prioritizing the safety of refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants and routing out discrimination and anti-Blackness in the immigration system through administrative actions that range from designating Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to all eligible countries to investing in programs that respond to regional migration and humanitarian challenges, among other critical efforts.

Kirsten Rambo, ASISTA's Executive Director, observed, "The Biden-Harris Administration has the power to make meaningful change in the lives of immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking, and we urge them to do exactly that. We have welcomed the Administration's initial steps in this direction, including those identified in its

National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality. It is also painfully clear that much work remains to reverse course from the cruel and inhumane policies of the previous four years, as this Blueprint report details. We call on the Administration to use this year and this moment to fight without hesitation for the safety, dignity, and justice that all immigrant survivors deserve.”

The [2022 Immigration Priorities: A Blueprint for the Biden-Harris Administration](#) is endorsed by twenty-six groups. The report highlights six core immigration policy areas where the administration should take action this year:

Protection and Relief to Keep Immigrant Families Together

- Continue to support and promote a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants.
- Exercise discretion for individuals with meaningful ties to the United States and those who are stateless so that they are protected from removal and can maintain their residence.
- Designate countries for TPS or DED when conditions prevent them from being able to care for or protect their nationals.
- Continue to take all necessary steps to protect the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program for immigrant youth.
- Allow individuals to apply for cancellation of removal affirmatively by creating a joint process between USCIS and the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR).
- Continue to pursue and expand a robust humanitarian parole program for Afghans, Central Americans, and Haitians in danger overseas and at the U.S. border.
- Establish a statelessness status determination. Extend parole or deferred departure to stateless individuals and do not place them in post-removal detention because they do not have a nationality and therefore cannot be removed.
- End family separation and prevent it in the future. End policies that separate children from their parents, adult family members, and trusted caregivers. Require agencies to consider the “best interests of the child” in every decision.
- Reunify all children separated from their families by the previous administration and formally end family detention.
- Reduce immigration backlogs by streamlining the adjudication process and terminating all policies and practices that are not required by law to address the millions of USCIS applications and petitions pending for years.
- Process immigrant visas up to the categorical limits on family-based, employment-based, and diversity visas in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, and apply any unused visas to the next fiscal year.

Routing Out Discrimination and Anti-Blackness in the Immigration System

- Immediately issue invitations to Haitians qualified for the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program.
- Review all immigration-related law, policy, practice, and processes to determine whether they disproportionately impact BIPOC communities, consistent with President Biden’s [executive order](#) on advancing racial equity.

- Protect and support an increase to the diversity visa program, withdraw [Department of Justice's appeal](#) of Gomez v. Biden, and recapture the remaining approximately 40,000 unused diversity visas.

Rebuilding The U.S. Economy and Supporting Our Immigrant Essential Workers

- Extend prosecutorial discretion to essential immigrant workers.
- Provide prompt access to employment authorization documents for eligible applicants.

Reducing Harm By Limiting Interior Enforcement and Improving Due Process Protections In Removal Proceedings

- Suspend and phase out entirely the prosecution of migration-related offenses, including unlawful entry and charges against family members and humanitarians for providing assistance and lifesaving support to immigrants in border areas.
- Formally end the 287(g) and Secure Communities programs and phase out cooperation programs between federal immigration enforcement and local law enforcement, consistent with the conclusions of legal experts and [164](#) immigration, civil rights, and human rights organizations.
- Phase out the use of detention and begin shutting down facilities in coordination with impacted families and local NGOs. End all contracts with private detention contractors, and place a moratorium on all expansion.
- Commit to providing legal counsel at no cost to every pro se individual and all vulnerable people, including unaccompanied children, people with a mental disability, and others who need legal support to ensure a fair hearing.
- Review the current roster of EOIR and Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) judges to determine if they are sufficiently qualified and committed to fairness for immigrants.
- Review current immigration litigation and settlement negotiations before the federal circuit courts and EOIR to determine if Office of Immigration Litigation (OIL) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) attorneys are taking positions consistent with the Biden administration. If not, direct OIL and ICE attorneys to settle cases favorably for immigrants or pursue administrative closure or termination of removal proceedings to keep families together.

Efforts and Challenges to Restoring the Asylum System and Humanitarian Protection at the Border

- Terminate the Title 42 expulsions policy and the Migrant Protection Protocols and permanently reopen the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Ports of Entry to asylum seekers.
- Resettle 125,000 refugees in FY2022, consistent with the Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions, and increase the Western Hemisphere regional allotment by adding at least 5,000 of the unassigned resettlement spots there.
- Improve asylum processes so that they are fair and timely.

Addressing the Root Causes of Migration and Promoting Regional Collaboration

- Take a whole-of-government approach to the region and pursue a hemispheric “Americas Migration Accord” built around a set of agreed-upon principles for regional responsibility sharing.

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[Read the full report here.](#)