

Asylum
Key Messages and Talking Points
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Seeking asylum is a human—and legal—right.

- That right is a cornerstone of U.S. and international law and central to the soul of the nation. Attempts to block access to asylum breach domestic and international laws recognizing this right.
- Xenophobic and hyperbolic representations in the media dehumanize people at the Southern border. The U.S. must dismantle false notions of scarcity and embrace our identity as a nation of immigrants with room for all.

We are thrilled that Title 42 has been repealed—but the damage it has done is both significant and long-lasting.

- Expulsions under Title 42 have led to injury and death and allowed smugglers to profit from human suffering. The rule has disproportionately affected Black and Brown immigrants who have experienced unimaginable (and in some cases fatal) cruelty at the hands of Customs and Border Protection.
- There will likely be a significant increase in those previously expelled under Title 42 returning to the border in search of protection.

The Biden administration’s policy solutions in the wake of Title 42’s end equate a “carrot and stick” approach.

- Their solutions are a mix of harsher enforcement and expanded legal pathways, including the continuation of a temporary humanitarian parole process, new family reunification programs, and increased refugee resettlement from the Western Hemisphere.
- The punitive policies far outweigh the expanded pathways—particularly regarding the asylum ban, which bars asylum eligibility for those who cross the border between ports of entry and did not first seek – and be denied – protection in a country they transited through to reach the United States.
- The new rule mirrors a transit asylum ban first implemented under the Trump administration, which was ultimately struck down by federal judges in multiple courts.

The U.S. government must ensure there is a fair, humane, and orderly process to allow people to seek protection. It is our moral duty.

- A response dignifying human life and acknowledging people’s suffering should drive our border policy — not one that turns away people fleeing persecution.
- Carrot-and-stick solutions don't work; we must pursue holistic solutions that honor the dignity of all asylum seekers, regardless of their country of origin.
- We need a significant increase in processing capacity, ample processing facilities that are safe, adequately staffed, and aren’t overcrowded, and more efficient case decisions.

The uptick of people seeking safety at our border is both expected and manageable.

- Pent-up demand and the inaccessibility of asylum due to Title 42 and other inhumane policies have resulted in an uptick of people seeking asylum, but the United States is fully capable of meeting the needs and upholding our moral duties.
- We must also remember that those at the border are people—mothers, fathers, children, family members, friends—not statistics. It is incumbent upon all of us to honor their courage, resilience, and inherent human dignity.

Our country needs immigrants now more than ever.

- Welcoming immigrants is the right thing and the smart thing to do. We need more robust legal pathways for migrants to contribute here – especially at a time when a nationwide labor shortage has left 10 million jobs open but only 6 million unemployed.
- Nationwide, more than 3.2 million immigrant entrepreneurs generate a business income of \$88.5 billion.
- Increasing the population share of immigrants attending U.S. colleges by just 1 percentage point increases U.S. patents per capita from 9% to 18%.

LIRS and our partners are on the ground and remain fully committed to helping those seeking protection.

- LIRS and its network provide both short-term respite services to immigrants who have crossed the southern border and longer-term case management services through LIRS Welcome Center programming.
- Through our Welcome Centers, the LIRS asylum services network provides wraparound services and trauma-informed case management to asylum-seeking families and individuals in their final destinations.
- LIRS partners empower families to achieve greater stability and wellbeing in their new communities through referrals to social and community services, including legal assistance, Know Your Rights orientation, adult education, school enrollment for children, and mental and physical healthcare.

People seeking protection need your help. To learn more about our work, visit [LIRS.org](https://lirs.org)/affiliate URL.

- The American people need to show individuals and families seeking safety that they are welcome here—especially as they face vitriol at every step in their journeys.
- Consider volunteering or making donations to support a warm welcome and a safe landing for our neighbors seeking protection.