

IMMIGRATION **JUSTICE** CAMPAIGN



Asylum Updates: Where We Are and How to Help Advocate for Change

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Ending Immigration Detention

We are fighting for the end to immigration detention, which comes at great cost to families, communities, and taxpayers—and great profit to private prison companies.

Read more about this fight

Read the stories of individuals impacted by detention

IMMIGRATION **JUSTICE** CAMPAIGN

Speakers

- **Ilana Greenstein**, Senior Legal Support Attorney, Immigration Justice Campaign
- **Rebekah Wolf**, Staff Attorney, American Immigration Council
- **Atenas Burrola**, Manager of Pro Bono Partnerships, Immigration Justice Campaign

Agenda

- Recent asylum developments
- Asylum developments on the horizon
- Key current advocacy issues
- How you can help
- Questions

Recent Developments

- Border practices
 - Asylum Cooperative Agreements (ACAs)
 - Remain in Mexico Program (MPP)
- Changes to the law
 - Asylum regulations
 - Administrative opinions
 - Central American Minors program (CAM)

Asylum Cooperative Agreements

Agreements between the U.S. government and the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras whereby people who attempt to seek asylum in the U.S. can be sent to one of those three countries to seek asylum there.

Terminated as of February 6, 2021

Remain in Mexico Program (MPP)

- Asylum seekers forced to remain in Mexico to await immigration court hearings.
- Approximately 70,000 people subjected to MPP between 2019-2021

MPP Wind-Down

- President Biden stopped new MPP enrollments January 21, 2021
- Phased wind-down announced February 11
- Phase I (individuals with pending court cases)
- Phase II (individuals with *in absentia* removal orders or terminated court cases)

Regulations

- Transit Bar
- Death to Asylum
- Criminal and Security-Related Bars
- Employment Authorization

As of now, only the work authorization regulations are in effect.

Administrative Opinions

- Matter of A-B- III, 28 I & N Dec. 307 (A.G. 2021)
- Matter of L-E-A- III, 28 I & N Dec. 304 (A.G. 2021)
- Both issued June 16, 2021
- Reopen the doors to asylum claims involving domestic violence, family relationships, and non-state actors

Central American Minors

- Restarting: refugee program for children from Central America
- Pathway to safe travel to U.S. + legal status
- For under-21 children from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras with parents/legal guardians in U.S. who have certain immigration statuses
- Administered through refugee resettlement program

Changes on the Horizon

- Title 42—who it is excluding now, what a wind down will likely look like
- MPP Phase 2
- Dedicated Docket
- New asylum process at the border

Advocacy Now

- Ending Title 42 without increasing detention numbers

- Rising detention numbers:

In June, 26,531 book-ins, of which 23,103 were by CBP.

First 3 days of July: 2,374 book-ins, of which 2,065 were by CBP.

- We continue to deport people: 45,626 this fiscal year (not including Title 42 expulsions)

Credible Fear Determinations

- Asylum pre-screening mechanism
- Intended to weed out claims with no potential merit
- CFI standard heightened in 2017 -> increased denial rates
- Denial rates continue to be high in 2021

Immigration Court Backlog

- Backlog grew exponentially under Trump
- 1,337,372 by May, 2021 - the highest in history.

How You Can Help

- Take Action
 - <https://immigrationjustice.us/advocacy/take-action/>
 - Continue to read our emails for more to come!
- Volunteer with the Immigration Justice Campaign
 - <https://immigrationjustice.us/volunteeropportunities/types-of-volunteer-opportunities/>

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Questions?

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