



# Statement from Immigrant Justice Network Calling for Bold and Inclusive Action on Immigration

The Immigrant Justice Network (IJN) and undersigned organizations call on President-elect Biden to take strong executive action on behalf of all immigrants. Immigration policies cannot be fair or just if they rely on outcomes from a criminal legal system that is fundamentally unjust, racialized, and built to target Black and brown people.

Throughout the campaign, President-elect Biden recognized the decades-long damage done by his support of the 1994 Crime Bill, the dog whistle politics of “superpredators,” biased policing, and the “tough on crime” policies that led to the mass incarceration of Black people and communities of color. These damaging policies ushered in the brutal 1996 immigration laws that created automatic and mandatory deportation and detention for immigrants. Immigration enforcement is not “broken” - as evidenced by the systematic rounding up of primarily working-class Black immigrants and immigrants of color who have had contact with the criminal legal system - but proceeding as designed. Our communities require bold solutions, like The New Way Forward Act, to root out deep systemic problems of racism and xenophobia infesting the immigration and criminal legal systems.

We hope this administration will commit to new policies that include people facing the devastating consequences of deportation and criminalization. We cannot go back to the Obama-era “felons not families” framework that led to millions of deportations and countless families separated. We must end the cruel practice of granting deportation

relief for some, in exchange for harsher punishments and criminalization for others. The militarized and racialized policing by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, that crescendoed during the 2020 uprisings must also end.

We demand that the new administration:

- Ensures that any moratorium on deportation or detention does not exclude people who have been criminalized, have had contact with the criminal legal system or have criminal records;
- Ensures that any prosecutorial discretion policy does not exclude people who have been criminalized, have had contact with the criminal legal system or have criminal records;
- Ensures that any “legalization” bill or administrative policy supported by the Biden Administration does not exclude people who have been criminalized, have had contact with the criminal legal system or have criminal records.

Sincerely,

Adelante Alabama Worker Center  
Adhikaar  
Advancement Project  
Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus  
Advocate Visitors with Immigrants in Detention  
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.  
Advocating Opportunity  
African Communities Together  
Aldea - The People’s Justice Center  
Alianza Americas  
Allies for Knoxville’s Immigrant Neighbors  
American Gateways  
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)  
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
Border Crit Institute

Brooklyn Defender Services  
California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (CCIJ)  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition (CAIR)  
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante  
Church World Service  
Cleveland Jobs with Justice  
Community Justice Exchange  
Connecticut Shoreline Indivisible  
Daily Kos  
Desert Support for Asylum Seekers  
Detention Watch Network  
Earl Carl Institute  
Empowering Pacific Islanders Communities  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America  
Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement  
Families for Freedom  
Freedom for Immigrants  
Freedom Network USA  
FL International Solidarity Collective  
Grassroots Leadership  
Haitian Bridge Alliance  
HIAS PA  
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Immigrant Action Alliance  
Immigrant Defence Advocates  
Immigrant Defenders Law Center  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Immigrant Health Justice Working Group, Doctors of America  
Immigrant Justice Network  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigrant Legal Defense  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Indivisible  
Innovation Law Lab  
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH)  
ISLA: Immigrant Services and Legal Advocacy  
Just Futures Law

Justice Strategies  
Kickapoo-Guatemala Accompaniment Project  
La ColectiVA  
Laredo Immigrant Alliance  
LBIRC  
Legal Aid Justice Center  
Migrant Center for Human Rights  
Mijente  
Muslim Justice League  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Employment Law Project  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG)  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA)  
Never Again Action  
New York Immigration Coalition  
Oregon Justice Resource Center  
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition  
Poder Latinx  
Public Counsel  
Puente Human Rights Movement  
RAICES  
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network  
Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network  
San Antonio Coalition for Police Accountability  
San Francisco Immigrant Legal & Education Network (SFILEN)  
Siembra NC  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center  
Southeast Immigrant Rights Network  
Texas Civil Rights Project  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
The Bronx Defenders  
Trans Queer Pueblo  
Transformations CDC  
UndocuBlack  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
United We Dream

Washington Defender Association  
Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center  
Workers Defense Project  
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights