



IMMIGRANT
JUSTICE
NETWORK



2023

PLATFORM FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

The [Immigrant Justice Network](#) (IJN) and our partner organizations call on President Biden to take strong action on behalf of all immigrants. Immigration policies cannot rely on outcomes from a criminal legal system that is fundamentally unjust, racialized, and built to target Black and Brown people.

President Biden has himself acknowledged the decades-long damage done by his support of the 1994 Crime Bill, the dog whistle politics of the “War on Drugs,” 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 based on contact with the racist criminal legal system. As evidenced by the systematic rounding up of primarily working-class Black immigrants and immigrants of color over the last three decades, unfortunately the system is proceeding as designed. Our communities require bold solutions, like [The New Way Forward Act](#) (HR 2374), to root out deep systemic problems of racism and xenophobia infesting the immigration and criminal legal systems.



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We urge this administration to enact solutions that are inclusive of people facing the devastating consequences of deportation and criminalization.

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THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION MUST:

1 Exercise discretion that protects immigrants facing deportation as a result of contact with the criminal legal system from enforcement, retaliation, detention - including indefinite detention - and removal.

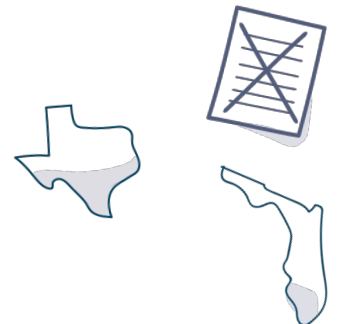


2 Stop the entanglement of federal immigration enforcement with localities by stopping the issuance of detainers which rely on biased criminal legal systems, canceling all 287(g) agreements and ending the use of warrant service officer agreements.

3 Support and respect local policies that end collusion between localities and federal immigration enforcement and stop pressuring localities to reverse course.

4 End contracts with and the use of for-profit immigration jails.

5 End cooperation with anti-immigrant state laws or policies that criminalize and target immigrants, such as Operation Lone Star in Texas and SB1718 in Florida.



6 End anti-immigrant litigation positions and reset structures within immigration law decisions to incorporate a presumption against deportation.

7 End federal criminal prosecutions under overtly racist laws that were used as the basis for family separation and continue to funnel migrants into the federal criminal legal system.



8 Allow individuals who were previously deported because of contacts with the criminal legal system an opportunity to return home to the United States to their families and communities.

We call on the Biden administration to take necessary steps to end these racist systems and move towards more just and humane immigration policies.