

June 6, 2022

Dear Members of Congress,

We the undersigned **140** organizations stand with Black communities, and all communities of color in America and at our borders, who have been relentlessly targeted in the media, in the halls of Congress, and tragically, by armed white supremacists. From El Paso to Pittsburgh, and across cities and towns in the U.S., the targeted murder of 10 people in a predominantly Black neighborhood in Buffalo is the latest in a series of tragedies directly inspired by white supremacist ideology. The racist and xenophobic concepts allowed to flourish online are being used to dehumanize and ferment violence against Black people, immigrants of color, Jews, Muslims, Latinos, Asian Americans, LGBTQIA+ people, and many other groups targeted by white supremacists.

The killer in Buffalo issued an online manifesto that includes a full-throated recitation of the [“Great Replacement” theory](#). This conspiracy theory rooted in hatred purports that immigrants of color are coming to Europe and America in a scheme to “replace” white people and are aided and abetted by Jews. In his so-called manifesto, the Buffalo murderer [asserted](#) that America is in the midst of an “invasion.” The now commonly-invoked conspiracy theory—that those coming to our southern border to request asylum constitute an “invading” force—is directly linked to the “Great Replacement” theory.

This racist theory and its offshoots have permeated the political sphere and the media, fostered and normalized by public officials, online platforms, and media commentators. Its amplification has transformed public sentiment: [One-third of Americans](#) say they are “concerned that immigrants are being brought to the country by a group of people for political gains,” which is a central argument of these white supremacist theories.

Efforts to upend our asylum system are directly related to these theories and the attacks they inspire. Despite a recent court ruling that will keep Title 42 in place indefinitely, far-right members of Congress are threatening to hold hostage important COVID funding legislation to move forward policies that would dismantle our asylum system for years to come, blocking refugees and asylum seekers of color at our borders. These anti-immigrant, white supremacist efforts are rooted in the consistent far-right attacks against non-white immigrants, which they have made central to their electoral strategy. Right-wing politicians have espoused the poisonous “open borders,” “migrant invasion,” and “mass amnesty” rhetoric to distort President Biden’s immigration policies, block legislative reform, and undermine the termination of Title 42. Since January 2021, over 23,000 people, including pregnant women and children have been sent to Haiti, and most were expelled under Title 42. These deportation flights, which are now up to 7 flights a day, should be ceased immediately. And since the implementation of Title 42 at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been used to cruelly expel over a million people to countries experiencing dangerous conditions or along the Southern border, despite the [CDC’s decision to rescind the order](#) and opposition by public health experts. Let us be crystal clear: all efforts to villainize and keep migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees out of our country are part of a larger, violent white supremacist project.

First and foremost, we urge Congressional leaders to carry out the policy priorities of Black leaders and civil rights organizations to address violence against Black communities. They further should deliver on

the campaign promises they made to the American electorate and, at a minimum, Congress should not create further harm by enacting anti-immigrant legislation. Instead, they should vote to protect undocumented immigrant youth and DACA recipients; they should vote to prioritize families and strengthen our legal immigration system; they should reopen and strengthen our asylum system; and they should ensure that localities have the resources to address migration comprehensively and humanely. This is what they can do today instead of submitting to bigoted efforts to redefine who we are as a nation.

As leading organizations who fought relentlessly against the outright racism of the prior administration and its efforts to tear down our immigration system, we urge Congressional leaders to reject demands to pursue a border policy debate rife with scare-mongering, anti-Black, and anti-immigrant sentiment as Congress seeks to pass important COVID funding legislation.

Support for the Lankford-Sinema legislation sends a dangerous signal to the American people—that they are willing to compromise our American values for fear of political, far-right attacks, undermine the administration’s efforts to finally rollback countless cruel and racist immigration policies, and eliminate a fair and just process that would allow people to exercise their right to seek asylum as enshrined in our laws and supported by [Americans at large](#). It would also be a vote to codify Stephen Miller’s and a designated hate groups’ [signature policy](#).

The Biden administration made the absolute correct—and long overdue—call to finally lift Title 42 to allow people to pursue their legal right to seek asylum. Supporting the Lankford-Sinema bill or any amendment like it that could shut the doors on asylum at the border indefinitely flies in the face of our nation’s values and commitments.

Sincerely,

Advocating Opportunity
African Communities Together
Alianza Americas
Amend Law
America's Voice
American Association of University Women
American Atheists
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
Amnesty International USA
Andrew Goodman Foundation
Anti-Defamation League
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
ASISTA Immigration Assistance
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Beyond Borders
Blue Wave Postcard Movement
Border Network for Human Rights
Bridges Faith Initiative
Broward for Progress
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism
Center for Victims of Torture
Church World Service
Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center
Clean Elections Texas
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Coalition on Human Needs
CommonDefense.us
Communities United for Status & Protection (CUSP)
Community Change Action
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Criminalization of Race and Poverty Project at Institute for Policy Studies
DemCast USA
Disability Rights Advocates
Education Law Center, Pennsylvania
Equal Justice Society
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project
Fair and Just Prosecution
Fair Immigration Reform Movement Action (FIRMA)
Families Belong Together
Federation for Children with Special Needs
Feminist Majority Foundation
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Freedom Network USA
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of Matènwa
GALEO & GALEO Impact Fund
Global Justice Clinic, Washington Square Legal Services
Global Project Against Hate and Extremism
Government Accountability Project
Haiti Response Coalition
Haitian Bridge Alliance
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative
Human Rights First
Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Immigration Hub
Impact Fund
Indivisible
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti
International Mayan League
Japanese American Citizens League
Justice Action Center
Justice in Aging
Lambda Legal
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG)
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR)
Mercy Focus on Haiti
MomsRising/MamásConPoder
MoveOn
Muslim Public Affairs Council
NAACP
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE)
National Council of Churches
National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG)
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
National Organization for Women
National Workrights Institute
Neighbors Link
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New York Immigration Coalition
North Carolina Justice Center
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Oasis Legal Services
Open The Government
Oxfam America
People's Action
People's Parity Project

PFLAG National
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Poligon Education Fund
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Project Lifeline
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Justice
Quixote Center
RAICES
Refugee Congress
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sojourners
South Asian Public Health Association (SAPHA)
Southern Poverty Law Center
Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Texas Civil Rights Project
The Advocates for Human Rights
The Black Alliance For Just Immigration (BAJI)
The Sidewalk School
The Workers Circle
True North Research
UndocuBlack Network
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Welcoming America
Win Without War
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
Witness at the Border
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights
Youthaiti