November 16 – Last week, the administration announced a rule on November 8 and a proclamation on November 9 that would unlawfully block from receiving asylum anyone who crosses into the United States anywhere except at a point of entry. The following is a statement from Archi, Pyati, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Immigrant Survivors:

“We have long welcomed immigrants and refugees at our borders as a recognition of our deepest values and to help make our nation stronger. In contrast, the current administration is attempting to violate U.S. and international law in order to slam the door on individuals and families seeking refuge from severe violence, persecution, and even death.

Despite attempts to cast this harmful proposal as following the rule of law, this approach clearly violates long-standing law. There is no reasonable justification for the new policy – it will not deter migration nor reduce the backlog in the immigration court system. The fact that the majority of those seeking asylum were previously being approved through the credible fear process is not a sign that we should move to close our borders, but a sign that migrants who are approaching the border have a well-founded fear of persecution and will face extreme danger if they are turned away.

The Alliance for Immigrant Survivors strongly condemns this order and recognizes the potential consequences of this decision, which will endanger survivors of gender-based violence. Many migrants seeking asylum are women and children fleeing domestic and sexual violence and persecution. Those traveling from Central America are coming from countries that have among the highest levels of violence in the world, where women and children are often targets of rape, sex trafficking, domestic abuse, and other crimes. These women and children approaching the southern border are in desperate search of safety and the opportunity to build a new, secure life in the United States. Our commitment, established by law, is to provide them this opportunity. To do otherwise relinquishes our commitment and undermines our values to uphold human rights and protect individuals and families who are fleeing persecution. This rule is cruel, unnecessary, unlawful, and must not stand.”

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