

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2023

Media Contact:

Juan Rivera

Director of Marketing & Communications, CARECEN SF

juan@carecensf.org

CARECEN SF STATEMENT REGARDING DHS ANNOUNCEMENT ON NEW MEASURES TO LIMIT ASYLUM

San Francisco, California – On Thursday, April 27, 2023 DHS announced new measures to limit avenues for asylum seekers to enter the United States through what they called an expansion of “safe and legal pathways” for migrants, in light of the proposed end of Title 42.

This new announcement includes:

1. Expanded Access to the CBPOne Appointments to Appear at a U.S. Port of Entry.
2. New Family Reunification Parole Processes for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Colombia and also the modernization of the existing family reunification parole processes for Cuba and Haiti.
3. Double the Number of Refugees admissions from the Western Hemisphere.
4. Continue to accept up to 30,000 individuals per month from Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti under the humanitarian parole program.
5. Open Regional Processing Centers (RPCs) in Colombia, Guatemala, and other key regional locations to facilitate access to lawful pathways.
6. The use of Title 8 to process and expedite the removal of individuals or families who try to enter the U.S. unlawfully and don't have a legal basis to remain in the country.
7. The increase in the number of removal flights per week.

CARECEN San Francisco supports and calls for programs that uphold Due Process, and honor the struggle, dignity, and bravery of people asserting their right to asylum. These measures inhumanely increase barriers for migrants seeking refuge. Limiting access to the CBPOne App fails to account for gaps in technology, language access, disability accommodation, and economic disparities between groups of migrants. The right to asylum is for everyone who faces persecution, including – and especially – for the people whose lack of financial and educational resources puts barriers in their way. The result will be an asylum system that leaves behind those with fewer resources, often those in the greatest need.

(Continued on next page)

These measures represent a clear externalization of the U.S. border to other countries. We are concerned that these measures in no way recognize root causes of migration, and weaken existing U.S. immigration policies and international obligations that otherwise would allow entry into the U.S. to asylum seekers.

The parole pathways are welcomed and important in the larger context of U.S. immigration policy, but they should never be considered a replacement or substitute for non-discriminatory access to asylum at the border.

Lastly, these new drastic measures will result in more confusion along the border. This confusion will leave migrants and their loved ones vulnerable to increased extortions and scams due to lack of information or a clear understanding of how each of these programs work.

CARECEN SF strongly opposes these proposed measures because they violate the existing statutory framework and mandate of the Department of Homeland Security to protect and provide fair process to asylum seekers.

##

CARECEN SF empowers and responds to the needs, rights and aspirations of Latino, immigrant, and under-resourced families in the San Francisco Bay Area — building leadership to pursue self-determination and justice. Rooted in its cultural strengths and inspired by the Central American justice struggles, CARECEN SF envisions our diverse immigrant community as thriving; where families prosper, build effective community institutions, and participate confidently in civic life. Learn more about our history and work at www.carecensf.org.