

PRESS STATEMENT

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U.S. Congress Must Reject the False Choice of Foreign Aid in Exchange for Effectively Ending the Asylum System

San Francisco - This week a small bipartisan group of senators are negotiating President Biden's [supplemental funding request](#), and shockingly they have put asylum protections for people fleeing harm on the chopping block in exchange for funding to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan.

There is no conceivable reason, other than cruelty, why foreign aid should be held hostage in exchange for codifying the dismantling of the U.S. asylum system. Asylum protects the most vulnerable among us who have fled dangerous peril, and gutting those protections will undeniably result in increased human suffering.

We must stand up, and be loud in our opposition to negotiations that would permanently eviscerate humanitarian protections like asylum, and other avenues for safe arrival in the U.S. like parole.

"We call on our elected officials in Congress to reject the notion that foreign aid approval should come at the expense of dismantling the U.S. asylum system - it is a false choice. Congress should focus on real solutions like updating our asylum system to be more welcoming, trauma-informed and humanitarian in nature" said **Lariza Dugan-Cuadra, Executive Director of the Central American Resource Center of Northern California - CARECEN SF.**

Background: As reported by [POLITICO](#), immigration groups are urging Congress to prioritize bipartisan [solutions](#) that “make the existing process work better while keeping communities safe. The solutions include: investing in frontline efforts to process migrants, providing resources to cities and communities welcoming them, and safeguarding access to asylum and ensuring the humane treatment of those applying.

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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.