



Fact Sheet for the Immigration Executive Orders issued on February 2nd, 2021

Executive Orders 14010 & 14011

Background:

President Biden issued three executive orders on February 2nd, 2021 to reverse Trump administration immigration policies such as the “Zero Tolerance” policy for undocumented arrivals and the “Remain in Mexico” policy, also known as Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP).

The “Zero Tolerance” policy, or the Trump administration’s family separation policy, was officially adopted across the U.S.-Mexico border between April-June 2018. During this time, at least 5,500 children were separated from their families and placed in overcrowded detention facilities. While many of the children have since been reunited with their families, hundreds of children remain in U.S. custody while officials attempt to reunite them with their families, many of whom were deported to their countries of origin.

The “Remain in Mexico” policy has forced tens of thousands of asylum-seekers to remain in Mexico while waiting for their U.S. immigration court dates. Around 55,000 asylum seekers have been removed from the U.S. and forced to wait in MPP camps, which have been hotbeds for continued victimization. Being forced to stay in these conditions leaves many asylum-seekers without protection from gangs, rape, kidnapping, and further violence, which for many are the same unsafe circumstances that forced them to leave their homes in the first place.

Executive Orders:

- **Create a Task Force to Reunify Families**
 - Charges task force to identify all migrant children who remain separated from their families and to facilitate the reunification of families
- **Develop a Strategy to Address Irregular Migration Across the Southern Border and Create a Humane Asylum System**
 - Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to review the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) program, to begin assessing the situation at the U.S.-Mexico border
 - Commits the administration to address the underlying causes of migration – instability, violence, and economic insecurity – and to collaborate with regional partners to improve other countries’ capacity to provide protection and opportunities to asylum-seekers and migrants closer to home
 - Pledges the administration to ensure legal avenues to the United States for Central American refugees and asylum-seekers

Why These Orders are Important:

- These orders seek to rebuild a humane, safe, and orderly immigration system
- It is crucial to recognize that migrants and asylum-seekers often experience a phenomenon called Triple Trauma – trauma in their country of origin, trauma in migration, and trauma in resettlement – and that migrant survivors will need culturally-specific sexual violence resources that can build on strengths and draw from cultural resiliency, traditional practices, and community support and guidance for healing

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