



As the Nation Celebrates Latinx Heritage Month, the California Welcoming Task Force Urges the Biden Administration to Restore Asylum at the U.S.-Mexico Border

The Biden Administration Must Move Beyond Symbolic Gestures and End Racist Policies, Including Title 42, That Continue to Restrict Access to Asylum at the Border

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San Diego, CA — This year’s Latinx Heritage Month’s theme is: “Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation.” The California Welcoming Task Force (CAWTF) agrees. Celebrating our diverse identities, including Afro-Latinos, Indigenous, and Latino/a/e people of all gender expressions makes us a better and stronger nation. As a binational coalition dedicated to re-envisioning how the U.S. can welcome people seeking asylum, we know a stronger nation begins with welcoming people seeking safety with dignity and a functional asylum system. For the next month, communities and corporations alike will celebrate the contributions of Latinx people, many of whom immigrated to this country or are descendants of those who did. Yet, today, our asylum system has been effectively dismantled by continuing the use of Title 42 and the Biden administration's failure to expeditiously process all persons subjected to the Remain in Mexico policy. We cannot celebrate the accomplishments of people from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America all month, while denying their families and loved ones the ability to reunite or find safety in the United States. To truly celebrate Latinx Heritage Month, the Biden Administration must move beyond symbolic gestures and address the structural racism that continues in our border policies and end Title 42.

We can welcome people seeking asylum and end xenophobic immigration policies and practices to make our nation stronger. As we celebrate Latinx heritage, thousands of people are stuck at our borders believing that our nation will honor its legal and moral obligation to welcome people who have suffered persecution due to race, religion, nationality, social group, torture, or political opinion. We continue to

fight for immigrants in government custody, ICE prisons, and those living in limbo due to ongoing removal proceedings. By ending Title 42, restoring the asylum system, ending detention of immigrants, and implementing universal representation for all persons in removal proceedings, we can fulfill our values as a welcoming country that truly celebrates all identities and heritage.

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The **California Welcoming Task Force** is a binational coalition dedicated to re-envisioning how the U.S. can welcome people seeking asylum safely and expeditiously at our border by coordinating across sectors (humanitarian & health, legal, advocacy and communications). More info at www.rapidresponsesd.org/cawtf