

# NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER PRIORITIES AND NAC SIGN-ONS BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS: JANUARY 2022

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## NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

### **ISSUE: BORDER WALL AND REMEDIATE HARMS**

**General Content:** This letter to congressional appropriators commending both chambers for including language to rescind past border wall funding both the Senate and House FY22 Homeland Security appropriation bills. The letter also urges policymakers to adopt the more robust version of provisions for funding and direction to mitigate harm from border wall construction in any final FY22 appropriations package, including the House bill's language for \$100 million to transfer to land management agencies to begin border wall mitigation, twice as much as the Senate version's funding levels.

**Sent to:** House and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairs and Ranking Members

**Sponsored by:** Southern Border Communities Coalition

### **ISSUE: HALT DEPORTATIONS & EXPULSIONS TO HAITI**

**General Content:** As we marked the twelve-year anniversary of the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti that took approximately 250,000 lives, the Biden Administration sent three deportation/expulsion flights to Haiti, for a total of eleven flights that week. January 13 marked another anniversary because twelve years ago, the day after the earthquake, the U.S. government lived up to its own ideals and international law by halting all deportations to Haiti for over a year. Your Administration has sent over 147 flights with pregnant women and children to Haiti since last September, when the world witnessed in horror the inhumane treatment of our fellow Haitian compatriots under the bridge in Del Rio, Texas. As of today, your Administration has sent 184 deportation/expulsion flights to Haiti in less than one year.

The letter asks the Administration to halt all deportation and expulsion flights to Haiti, expedite the release of Haitians detained in immigration facilities in the United States, and end the discriminatory mistreatment of Haitian asylum seekers and migrants.

**Sent to:** President Biden, Secretary Blinken, Secretary Mayorkas, and Chargé d'Affaires Merten

**Sponsored by:** Interfaith Immigration Coalition

**ISSUE: REQUEST FOR 18-MONTH EXTENSION AND REDESIGNATION OF TPS (TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE STATUS FOR SOUTH SUDAN**

**General Content:** quest an 18-month extension and redesignation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for South Sudan. South Sudan’s TPS designation is set to expire May 2, 2022, after the Department of Homeland Security’s statutory decision date of March 3, 2022, but South Sudan is still under conditions making safe return impossible. New and escalating armed conflict, devastation from environmental disasters, and an intensifying humanitarian crisis presenting extraordinary and temporary conditions qualify South Sudan for extension and redesignation. Both extension and redesignation are vital to safeguard the lives of both current TPS holders and South Sudanese individuals who have arrived in the United States since the last redesignation in 2016. Given current conditions in South Sudan, the maximum protection of an 18-month extension and redesignation is both legally and morally warranted.

**Sent to:** Secretaries Blinken and Mayorkas

**Sponsored by:** The Massa Group

**NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY**

**ISSUE: PWA - PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT**

**General Content:** The need for the grows more urgent by the day. Every day, pregnant and postpartum workers are being forced to leave the workforce because they can’t get the accommodations, they need to stay healthy and working, especially women of color in frontline, low-wage, and physically demanding jobs.

**Sent to:** Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senate Majority Leader

**Sponsored by:** A Better Balance

**ISSUE: BUILD BACK BETTER'S INVESTMENTS IN CHILD CARE AND PREK**

**General Content:** The letter begins: "Childcare and pre-kindergarten (pre-K) are foundational supports for families and the American economy that have been under-resourced for far too long and nearly decimated by the pandemic. The letter underscores the urgency of passing Build Back Better’s investments in affordable, quality childcare and mixed-delivery pre-K to lower costs for families and raise wages for providers. These investments - together with home and community-based services, paid leave, and the child tax credit - form a “care infrastructure” that supports both families and the economy overall."

**Sent to:** Members of Congress

**Sponsored by:** Womens Law Center

**ISSUE: EXTENDING USDA (US Department of Agriculture) NATIONWIDE WAIVER TO MEET NEEDS OF STUDENTS**

**General Content:** At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress gave the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) the authority to issue nationwide child nutrition waivers to address access

and operational challenges created by the pandemic, allowing school nutrition programs, local government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to adapt as necessary to changes such as school closures and virtual learning. This letter asks that the USDA's nationwide waiver authority be extended through School Year 2022-2023 in recognition of the ongoing pandemic, the continuing school closures, and the need for flexibility to meet the needs of students.

**Sent to:** Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Bishop, Ranking Member Harris, Chairwoman Baldwin, Ranking Member Hoeven

**Sponsored by:** Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)

### **ISSUE: JOB PROTECTION ACT**

**General Content:** Letter in support of the Job Protection ACT which would improve and strengthen the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which was signed into law 29 years ago in 1993, and provides eligible workers with up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to bond with a new child; care for a seriously ill or injured spouse, parent, or child; address their own health condition; or up to 26 weeks to care for a servicemember or address needs related to a family member's deployment.

**Sent to:** Members of Congress

**Sponsored by:** National Partnership for Women & Families

## **NAC FOCUS AREA: U.S. POLICIES THAT AFFECT GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION IN OTHER COUNTRIES**

### **ISSUE: CIVILIAN CASUALTIES**

**General Content:** Letter urging President Biden to structurally reform U.S. civilian harm policies and practices. For two decades, U.S. operations overseas have killed tens of thousands of civilians around the world – primarily from Brown, Black, and Muslim communities – and exacerbated communities' humanitarian needs. Rather than taking effective action to prevent and respond to these harms, the Defense Department has summarily dismissed countless credible claims of civilian casualties and regularly failed to conduct effective or transparent investigations, learn lessons over time, or provide amends, redress, or meaningful accountability. "Through your leadership, the U.S. government can finally account for and reckon with the civilian deaths, injuries, and other harms of the last twenty years. Your legacy and commitment to human rights, humanitarianism, and racial justice globally are at stake, and we urge you to seize this opportunity to act."

**Sent to:** President Biden

**Sponsored by:** Center for Civilians in Conflict

## **NAC: OTHER RELATED AREAS**

**Explanation of RELATED AREAS (Root Causes, implicated in the Concern, or Current Situation).** These would generally be contained within a FOCUS AREA. They include but are not limited to: **COVID-19, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, FAMILIES, RACISM, and VIOLENCE.**

### **AREA: DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON/PRISON REFORM**

#### **ISSUE: INTERFAITH LETTER ON GUANTANAMO**

**General Content:** Sign-on letter to President Biden and Members of Congress asking them to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Bay, Cuba and to ensure that all of the people held there are either released, agree to a plea deal, or receive a fair trial in a federal court.

The prison at Guantanamo was opened as part of an effort to hold suspected terrorists outside of the protections of U.S. law. This was wrong to begin with, however this immoral act was compounded by the decision to torture many of the prisoners. In the fullness of time, we now know that many of the people sent to Guantanamo were never involved in terrorism in the first place.

**Sent to:** President Biden and Members of Congress

**Sponsored by:** WISC (Washington Interreligious Staff Community and National Religious Campaign Against Torture)

### **AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION**

#### **ISSUE: EPA METHANE RULE (PA)**

**General Content:** Letter to express our support for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) efforts to address climate change by proposing rules to reduce methane pollution, a powerful greenhouse gas, from new and existing oil and gas infrastructure. However, we urge you to strengthen the proposed rule to ensure it reduces as much methane and health-harming pollution as possible. Organization with members in PA were asked to sign on because PA as the third-largest greenhouse gas polluting state and the second-largest natural gas producer in the nation, Pennsylvania bears an outsized responsibility to address climate change. According to a 2020 analysis, the Environmental Defense Fund concluded that oil and gas-related methane emissions in Pennsylvania are more than 15 times higher than industry-reported data and total 1.1 million tons of methane per year.

**Sent to:** EPA Administrator Regan

**Sponsored by:** Justice Conference of Women Religious

## NAC SIGNED ON TO A STATEMENT THAT WAS ADDRESSED TO ADVOCACY GROUPS:

### **ISSUE: ADVOCACY GROUPS PUSH TO ADVANCE BUILD BACK BETTER POLICIES**

**General Content:** WASHINGTON, DC — A coalition of Advocacy groups released a joint statement today calling for Congress to join the President in advancing the priorities in Build Back Better.

*“While extraordinary progress has been made with the American Rescue Plan and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we all agree that more can, and should, be done. Families continue to face challenges that necessitate bold action. The policies President Biden has outlined in the Build Back Better Act will make historic investments to cut costs for families and create millions of good-paying jobs, fully paid for by making sure the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.*”

*“The principles outlined by President Biden remain popular with the American people and would be a historic investment in American families. We urge our elected leaders to come together with the President, reach consensus on a final package, and pass the Build Back Better Act into law.”*

**Initiated by:** Building Back Together