

“Immigration Priorities for Biden’s First 100 Days

A4a Immigration Team January 2021

A. Demilitarize the border while ensuring public safety for all people in the U.S.

1. Eliminate militarization at the border. No new money for surveillance technology nor physical walls.
2. Increase funding for ports of entry.
3. Apprehend only undocumented in the interior who pose a danger to society.
4. End criminalization of the undocumented. Return to civil enforcement.

B. Address the current status of DACA recipients, Dreamers and TPS holders.

1. Allow new applications for DACA and restore protection from deportation to two years.
2. Change eligibility date for those turning 15 years old or who have met the educational requirement to September 2017.
3. Reinstate the provision, known as advance patrol, to allow DACA recipients to leave and return to the U.S. for humanitarian, educational, family and work-related reasons.
4. Extend the wind-down period for existing long-term TPS holders.
5. Support legislation that provides Dreamers, DACA and TPS holders permanent resident status and a path to citizenship.

C. Maintain U.S. economic growth with continuously-renewed immigrant labor and ingenuity.

1. Support legislation to provide immediate permanent residency and a pathway to citizenship to select groups (established undocumented residents, mixed-status families, agricultural workers and essential COVID-19 workers.)
2. Improve USCIS processing services while decreasing fees raised during the Trump Administration.
3. Minimize interior enforcement against parents, legal guardians and care givers, most of whom financially support their U.S. citizen children.

D. Prioritize humane treatment of immigrants and visitors.

1. Review all of the changes to immigration policies and regulations by the Trump Administration to undo those that harm immigrants, especially children and families, and improve professional standards for ICE and CBP personnel.
2. Never separate families. End family detention
3. Increase independent oversight at federal immigration facilities.
4. Select low-cost Alternative-to-Detention (ATD) for all non-violent detainees.
5. Detain minors only for swift processing purposes.
6. Urgently reunite all separated children with parents.
7. Provide universal legal representation for immigrants.
8. Rescind the Public Charge Rule and expand vital services for families.

E. Improve Asylum Process

1. End the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s closure of the border (based on Title 42) to asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors, due to COVID-19.
2. End “Remain in Mexico” program that puts asylum-seekers in danger without counsel.
3. End U.S. monetary and personnel support for Mexico’s apprehension of asylum seekers at their southern border.
4. Withdraw from Asylum Co-operative Agreements with Northern Triangle countries.
5. Withdraw regulations denying asylum to persons who transit through third countries to the U.S.

6. Withdraw Attorney General opinions that deny asylum to victims of domestic abuse and gang violence.
7. Ensure all valid credible fear claims are processed fairly and efficiently by trained immigration agents.
8. Add trained immigration judges to southern border to conduct speedy non-video-conferencing hearings.
9. Eliminate detention for all but violent asylum seeker criminals.
10. Create asylum reviews by trained U.S. personnel throughout Mexico and Central America.

Sources:

“10 Immediate Priorities for the Protection of Immigrant Children,” Refugee International, 11/20/20.

“Improving the U.S. Immigration System in the First Years of the Biden Administration,” Center for Migration Studies of New York, Nov. 2020.

“Immigration Priorities for a Biden Administration,” National Immigration Forum, November 2020.

“Recommendations for U.S. Immigration Reform,” a4a Immigration Team, January 2020.

SOURCE

Alliance4Action Immigration Action Group (<https://alliance4action.org/action-groups/immigration/>)

MISSION

We work to inform ourselves and others, to advocate for, and to act for fair legislation and policies on immigration.

Core Issue Statement

The a4a immigration team is focused on the impact on families and children of current U.S. immigration laws and practices. We inform the general public so they will influence legislation.