



On behalf of **Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative (HILSC)** and **Houston Coalition Against Hate (HCAH)**, representing over 100 community-based nonprofits, institutions, leaders, and organizations in our nation's fourth most populous city, we issue this joint statement in support of *The National Day of Protests for Black Migrants*. We call on the Biden Administration to honor its commitments under American and international law by immediately terminating the expulsion of asylum-seekers, and halting all deportation of Haitian migrants to a country still engulfed in political turmoil, ravaged by natural disasters, and besieged by gang violence.

Today, we stand shoulder to shoulder with thousands of people who take to the street to demand justice for Black migrants. We demand the Biden Administration immediately cease the biases and racism being perpetrated against Haitians, other Black migrants and Migrants of Color seeking asylum. We demand full accountability for the documented abuses, violence and misconduct of Customs and Border Protection agents who weaponized horse reins using them as whips to corral Haitian migrants and asylum-seekers traversing the Rio Grande to secure food and supplies for their families.

In the 25 days since September 19, 2021, the United States government has spent millions of dollars flying a total of 72 flights deporting more than 7,500 Haitian asylum-seekers back to Haiti, a country still struggling to recover from political turmoil, natural disasters, and rampant gang violence. These callous expulsions dishonor America's legacy of offering safe haven to protect vulnerable people seeking refuge from violence, war, famine, and persecution. These actions against asylum-seekers flout the United States' commitment under international treaty obligations to espouse the non-refoulement principle. Haitian migrants have a right to seek asylum in the United States under American and international laws. By rapidly expelling Haitians, the United States denies these Black migrants the opportunity to seek refuge, has singled them out for banishment, and put their lives in grave danger. Black asylum-seekers deserve to be welcomed with dignity, not relegated to an endless cycle of discrimination and violence. The only way forward is the humane and legal way forward, to restore asylum and halt deportations.

The cruel and reprehensible treatment of Haitian migrants at the border goes far beyond the horrific photos we saw released from Del Rio a few weeks ago. The actions of CBP officers on horseback reflect a much larger broken immigration system steeped in racism and cruelty. Anti-Blackness and racial inequity remain issues consistently faced by this nation, our system of immigration is not exempt. Such injustices have never been more apparent than what has recently been perpetrated against Haitian migrants at the border. This is unacceptable and the Biden administration must immediately change course and halt these deportations.

The world is watching, our country is watching. We must undo and correct the injustice that has taken place against Black immigrants and repair our broken immigration system so atrocities like these never happen again under our watch. With the reopening of the Southern Border for nonessential travels, it is clearly time to terminate any expulsion of migrants under the guise of the public health concerns of Title 42. President Biden **MUST** honor his word, and revoke the Title 42 expulsion order preventing asylum-seekers from making claims to secure this status.

We demand: **NO MORE DEPORTATION AND JUSTICE FOR BLACK MIGRANTS!**